

Perth Glory to go *Ericsson Cup* shopping

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

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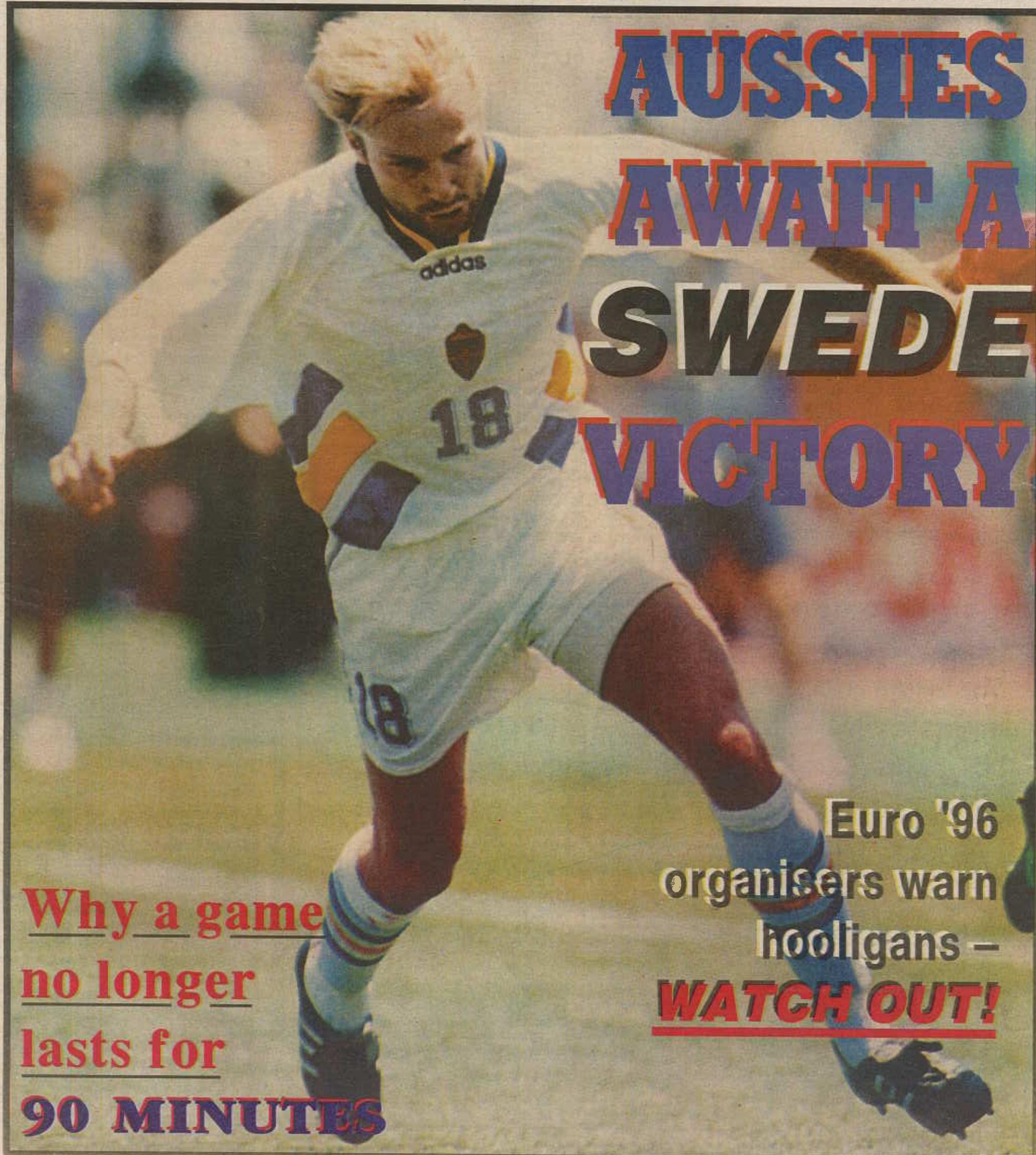
SOCER

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WEEKLY

\$2.50



ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 21

TABLE

TOTAL

	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A
UTS Olympic	44	21	13	5	3	42	23
Marconi Fairfield	43	21	13	4	4	41	23
Brisbane Strikers	37	21	11	4	6	35	22
Sydney United	32	21	8	8	5	26	20
West Adelaide	31	21	9	4	8	30	28
Melbourne Knights	30	20	8	6	6	21	16
Adelaide City	28	20	8	4	8	33	27
South Melbourne	27	21	8	3	10	31	35
Morwell Falcons	25	20	7	4	9	23	35
Canberra Cosmos	22	21	5	7	9	36	39
Wollongong City	14	21	4	2	15	19	45
Newcastle Breakers	11	20	2	5	13	21	45

HOME

	P	W	D	L	F	A
UTS Olympic	11	8	3	0	23	8
Marconi Fairfield	11	6	3	2	20	14
Brisbane Strikers	10	7	2	1	28	7
Sydney United	9	5	1	3	15	7
West Adelaide	11	7	1	3	17	11
Melbourne Knights	10	6	1	3	11	5
Adelaide City	10	4	3	3	20	10
South Melbourne	11	5	3	3	21	15
Morwell Falcons	9	4	1	4	12	14
Canberra Cosmos	10	3	4	3	18	14
Wollongong City	10	3	0	7	10	16
Newcastle Breakers	11	1	5	5	15	22

AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
UTS Olympic	10	5	2	3	19	15
Marconi Fairfield	9	6	1	2	18	8
Brisbane Strikers	11	4	2	5	7	15
Sydney United	11	3	7	1	10	10
West Adelaide	10	2	3	5	13	17
Melbourne Knights	9	2	4	3	7	8
Adelaide City	10	4	1	5	13	17
South Melbourne	10	3	0	7	10	20
Morwell Falcons	11	3	3	5	11	21
Canberra Cosmos	10	2	2	6	15	22
Wollongong City	11	1	2	8	9	29
Newcastle Breakers	9	1	0	8	6	23

W WIN 3 Points

D DRAW 1 Points

L LOSS 0

RESULTS

WOLLONGONG CITY 4
 (Ceccoli 34, Perinich 53, 74, Jermen 70)

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1
 (Lowe 37)

CANBERRA COSMOS 3
 (Marth 46 og, Castro 72, Perinovic 89)

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 3
 (Kutlesovski 22,
 T. Podeljak 30, D Cervinski 63)

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 3
 (Maloney 36, Awaritefe 46, Renaud 85)

SYDNEY UNITED 1
 (Z Babic 43)

UTS OLYMPIC 3
 (Trajanovski 44, 50, Slager 69 og)

WEST ADELAIDE 2
 (Tsekinis 18, 29)

SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

BRISBANE STRIKERS 0

CROWDS

SEASON BEST: 13,956 – South Melbourne v West Adelaide – Round 9
 ROUND 21 BEST: 8268 UTS OLYMPIC V West Adelaide TOTAL ROUND 21: 24,329
 SEASON TOTAL: 560,320. AVERAGE PER MATCH: 4,669.

FANS CLUB BY CLUB

CLUB	TOTAL	MATCHES	AVERAGE
Souths	77285	11	7025
UTS Olympic	62,701	11	5700
Marconi	62024	12	5168
Brisbane	47896	10	4769
Ad City	47030	10	4703
Syd Utd	41602	9	4622
Melb Knights	43729	10	4372
Newcastle	40621	10	4062
West Ad	44107	11	4009
Canberra	36040	11	3276
Morwell	29610	9	3290
Wollongong	32238	10	3223

- EACH CLUB'S BEST CROWD -

Souths	13956 v West Ad	R9
Marconi	11866 v UTS Olympic	R20
UTS Olympic	11145 v Marconi	R9
Ad City	9601 v West Ad	R17
Syd Utd	9170 v UTS Olympic	R19
West Ad	8284 v Ad City	R6
Brisbane	7851 v Melb Knights	R16
Newcastle	6837 v UTS Olympic	R1
Melb Knights	6290 v Souths	R1
Canberra	5490 v Syd Utd	R2
Wollongong	5069 v UTS Olympic	R17
Morwell	4183 v Souths	R2

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 6 Letters to the Editor
 8-9 Club News
 10-11 Ericsson Cup Match Reports
 15 Victorian Premier League
 20 Women's Writes
 21 Italy
 23 World News
 24 World Results
 26 South America
 28 UK SSD
 30 POOLS and UK Tables
 Front Page: Hakan Mild – Sweden

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LEADING GOALSCORERS

17 Kris Trajanovski	(UTS Olympic)
16 Damien Mori	(Adelaide City)
12 Frank Farina	(Brisbane Strikers)
11 Paul Wade	(Canberra Cosmos)
10 Andy Harper	(Marconi Fairfield)
10 Francis Awaritefe	(Marconi Fairfield)
9 Jim Tsekinis	(West Adelaide)
7 Rodney Brown	(Brisbane Strikers)
7 Ivan Kelic	(South Melbourne)
7 Paul Trimboli	(South Melbourne)
7 Bradley Hassell	(Adelaide City)
7 Tony Perinich	(Wollongong City)

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AUSTRALIA v SWEDEN

Slater & Tiatto in for Australia



Damian Mori: Has been bracketted with club-mate Goran Lozanovski for Wednesday night.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Eddie Thomson, Australia's coach will definitely play midfielders Robbie Slater and Danny Tiatto tomorrow night (Wednesday) at the Sydney Football Stadium in the return clash against touring Sweden. Kick-off is 7.30pm.

Slater and Tiatto made rush trips back from England for the two matches against the Swedes.

Last night from Australia's camp at the Novotel Resort at Sydney's beach suburb Brighton Le Sands, Thomson stated,

"I will be playing both Robbie and Danny on Wednesday night."

"In fact I was hoping to do just that last Sunday in Brisbane, but Robbie was still not fully fit and pulled out on Sunday morning."

"I had Danny in my line-up but unfortunately he was struck down by a virus attack just hours before kick-off."

"In fact he got so bad he couldn't remain at the Stadium to even watch the game and I had to send him back to our hotel," said Thomson.

The impressive Sweden who finished third in the last World Cup Finals, finished

very strongly last Sunday night in Brisbane, scoring two late goals. This enabled the tourists to defeat a rapidly tiring Australia 2-0 for their first victory over the home country.

In a three match 'Test' series in 1992, Australia again under Thomson's guidance twice defeated Sweden by 1-0 with a third clash ending in a scoreless draw.

Thomson last night added, "We gave away two silly goals late in the game as we started to tire quite badly."

"Sweden as expected is a very tough and athletic outfit and pressured us in the second half as we started to run out of legs the last 20 minutes."

"We played extremely well in the first half and forced Sweden's goalkeeper to make a magnificent save off a Graham Arnold header."

"And Joe Spiteri went very close and shaved the post in the same period."

When queried about Australia's defence on Sunday, Thomson had nothing but praise for his back-three.

"Milan, Alex and Tony (Ivanovic, Tobin and Popovic) were terrific."

"But as our midfielders ran out of legs late in the game they failed to

completely support our strike-line."

"We also started to squander possession with some silly long balls."

"But I'm sure we'll be much better with this first game out of the way."

"We must work very hard and pressure them all the time."

"I can honestly say that we really competed in Brisbane and we have a good chance of now winning the last match in Sydney," ended Thomson.

At this stage Thomson has bracketed the Adelaide City pair, midfielder Goran Lozanovski and ace-goalscorer Damian Mori for the right side of midfield to extract penetration and crosses.

Thomson has also bracketed Jason Polak with captain Paul Wade and is almost certain to use both at some stage in the match.

AUSTRALIA'S LINE-UP

Goalkeeper: Zeljko Kalac.

Sweeper: Milan Ivanovic.

Twin-markers: Alex

Tobin, Tony Popovic.

Midfielders:

Goran Lozanovski or

Damian Mori, Robbie

Slater, Paul Wade or

Jason Polak, Milan

Blagojevic, Danny Tiatto.

Strikers: Graham Arnold,

Joe Spiteri.



Alex Tobin: Was outstanding for Australia on Sunday, according to Thomson.

AUSTRALIA v SWEDEN

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*Wednesday,
28th February*



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Eddie Thomson



Graham Arnold

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Thomas Ravelli



Tom Svensson

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Marconi hold Jubilo Iwata

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Last Tuesday night title-chasing Marconi held the star-studded Japanese J-League's touring side Jubilo Iwata to a creditable 1-1 draw before a disappointing crowd, at Marconi Stadium.

Marconi hit the lead in the 25th minute when left midfielder Mike Smith dynamically scored with a lunging header from a geometrically precise Andy Harper cross.

Jubilo hit back midway through the second half with an extremely well-taken goal from Gon Nakayama.

Brazil's World Cup winning captain Dunga played the entire match despite an ankle injury but former Italian star Salvatore "Toto" Schillaci was once more sidelined due to lack of fitness.

After the match Marconi's coach Manfred Schaefer evaluated, "I was very impressed by Jubilo's Kudo."

"We held our shape well. Both sides tried to attack and it was an enjoyable match because neither team was under pressure to obtain a result."

Meanwhile, Jubilo's master coach and former Dutch youth international striker "Hans" Johan Ooft told ABSW after the match, "This was our first competitive match and it was not so bad considering we are still in our pre-season preparation stage."

"But as the game went on we gradually got better. However I was disappointed with my back line players who dropped off too quickly against Marconi's mobile attack."

Marconi entertained both playing squads after the match in their lavish and five star Club premises.



Salvatore Schillaci with Marconi Soccer Secretary, Ms Gabriella Genovese, at the after-match function that the Club hosted for Jubilo Iwata's travelling party.



Dunga with ABSW writer John Economos at the Marconi after-match dinner last week.

Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup latest

ABSW has received word from the senior manager of the prestigious Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup competition, Terry Hampton, that there has been a regrettable delay in the printing of the 1996 handbook.

Terry asked us to inform our schools readers that the handbook for 1996 will be out to all schools within the next two weeks.

Not the least of the difficulties for the organisation of the 1996 series was the family tragedy for Bill Turner when his wife died last August.

Things became disjointed but a fine effort from a hard working team got things going.

Several other factors held up getting the finished product to the printer including presentations of new supporters and sponsors being included in the handbook.

However things are definitely pretty well back to normal and the books should be on the way to individual school coaches very soon.

Banks joins Salisbury

One of the world's greatest goalkeepers, Gordon Banks, has pledged his support for South Australian Premier League club Salisbury United.

The former World Cup winning goalkeeper has accepted an invitation by Salisbury United to join former England colleague, Sir Bobby Charlton, as the club's Vice Patron.

"I know myself how much joy it gave me as a child and the many, many hours of just kicking a ball about," Mr Banks wrote in a letter to Salisbury's Honorary Vice Patron and local MP Mike Rann.

Banks, who was awarded an OBE for his services to soccer, said he was pleased to accept the position as Salisbury's honorary Vice Patron "even though you are on the other side of the world. It just goes to show how international the game is."

Gordon Banks is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest goalkeepers in the history of the game.

He, along with Bobby Charlton, were key members of the England team which won the 1966 World Cup.

His 1970 'dramatic save' against Pele is

regarded as one of the greatest feats of modern soccer.

His superb 'keeping led to the famous saying "as safe as the Banks of England".

Salisbury United Chairman, Karen King, has welcomed Mr Banks' support for the Club whose senior team reached last year's Premier League finals.

"We are trying to lift the profile of Salisbury United, and the support of legends like Gordon Banks and Bobby Charlton will boost our plans to attract young players, members and sponsors."

United patron Mike Rann said Gordon Banks and Sir Bobby Charlton were known as gentlemen players, and have remained great ambassadors for the world sport.

"Both England stars have a strong interest in encouraging junior soccer, and Gordon Banks had read about Salisbury United's strong support for juniors in a feature in the magazine Soccer International. I hope the support of people like Banks and Charlton will encourage sponsors to embrace a club with a real future in Australian soccer," Mr Rann said.

Year of achievement at SA despite loss

BY TED SIMMONS OF AAP

Soccer Australia's annual general meeting last weekend re-elected the unopposed David Hill as chairman and Neville Wran as president. However members were also told their organisation had incurred a loss of \$798,425 for this year after a 1994 profit of \$1,373,533.

"This year we are budgeting for a \$300,000 loss which could be higher but Hill is still hopeful of a slight surplus," said SA commissioner George Negus.

"Most of the loss in the past year was taken up with legal costs."

Soccer Australia had to find money for the Stewart and Senate inquiries, court challenges from the three clubs axed from the National League and negotiations with the Players Union.

Negus said a transcript and report on the three-day summit had been delayed because of these hearings and the start of the season.

"But the momentum of the summit proposals are already being implemented, especially in marketing, strategy, finance, advancement and a national plan," he said.

"This has been confirmed by new sponsorship, crowd increases and 23 nominations for next season's National League."



Soccer Australia this week will finalise discussions on applications for the next national league.

Plans for Australia's international team were being mostly handled by Hill in overseas discussions.

After the current series against Sweden, an away series, still to be confirmed, is on the agenda against Chile.

Negus said a review was being made of how to get maximum value from overseas based players. As an example the game against Scotland in late March should only cost about \$30,000.

"We're also talking to major corporations about long term sponsorship as well as holding serious discussions with commercial television networks, added Negus.

Osaka give the West a soccer lesson

BY RICHARD KREIDER

Japanese club Cerezo Osaka completed a successful pre-season training session in Perth, with a clean sweep of their four friendly matches that were played at Dorrien Gardens last week.

The touring party of 34 players and officials were split into two groups. Osaka's number one side downed Perth S.C. 2-0 and the so-called second team easily defeated Stirling Macedonia 4-1 last Tuesday. Finally on Saturday, the number two team downed the State Under-19 squad 3-1, while the final match saw the main Cerezo side down the previously undefeated Perth Glory 1-0.

Yamahashi emerged as Osaka's top scorer on tour, after netting a double against Perth and a 14th minute winner against the Glory.

Brazilian striker Narciso scored two goals in the clash with Stirling while another brace went to Sato who converted his against the youth side.

Pace and creativity was the difference between the J-League club and a depleted 14-man Glory squad.

Next season's Ericsson Cup newcomers had no answer to their opponents swift closing down tactics and the breathtaking one-touch football when they went on the offensive.

And it was a defensive error capitalised on by the visitors with maximum effect, when Brazilian attacking mid-fielder

Marquinhos set up Yamahashi to drill the ball past Tom Maras from ten metres out.

"I wanted to see how some of our players fared under pressure, and at times we were found wanting," said Glory coach Gary Marocchi. "We were out of sorts in the opening half, but we picked ourselves up well after the break. Although I was relatively happy with a 0-1 result, it is clear we are in need of a quality striker and a midfield play-maker."

Meanwhile, Craig and Gareth Niven, Tom Maras, Paul McVittie and Alan Armstrong are set to become the first players to be contracted with the Glory.

While the Niven twins and Maras is a relatively easy transition from Perth SC, it is believed the Stirling Macedonia club has placed an asking price of \$12,000 on Armstrong and \$3000 on McVittie. "We originally made a counter offer, that Stirling did not accept, and because the players are out of contract, we are now handing this matter over to Soccer Australia for tribunal, which is standard procedure," said the Executive Officer of Glory, Roger Lefort.

STAR PROFILE

Toto Schillaci

JUBILO IWATA



Date of Birth: December 1, 1964
Birthplace: Palermo
Previous Clubs: Messina, Juventus, Inter Milan
Current Club: Jubilo Iwata
Position: Striker
Nickname: 'Toto'
Marital Status: Divorced
Occupation: professional footballer
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Goalscoring
Most Difficult Opponent: "Myself. I have always been scared of myself"
Favourite Overseas Player: Romario (Brazil)
Favourite Overseas Club: Ajax Amsterdam
Euro '96 tip: Italy
What Qualities Make a Good Coach: Must have been a good player himself
Most unwelcome dinner guest: I don't know off-hand
Honours: Italian youth team in 1988. Senior team 1990
Ambitions For 1996: To win the J-League with Jubilo Iwata
Ambitions after retiring: Go back to my home town of Palermo to spend time with my family and friends and maybe coach children
Most Memorable Moment: My six goals in the 1990 World Cup
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Fishing
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Many. Especially during World Cups
Favourite Food: All Italian food
Favourite Drink: Red and White wine
Car You Drive: Porsche
Favourite TV Show: News programs
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: cheap productions
Favourite Movie: All action movies
Favourite Actor/Actress: Robert DeNiro and Sharon Stone
Preferred Music: Every kind
Least Preferred Music: Hardly anything
Favourite Comedian: Roberto Beninno who is from Italy
Pet Hates: Violence of any description
Advice To Young Players: work hard at your game because it's the most enjoyable profession in the world
Person You'd Most Like To Meet: Robert De Niro

By John Economos

League leaders to square up to tourists

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Jubilo Iwata, Japan's crack J-League side currently touring Sydney, will tonight (Tuesday) play their third and final pre-season match. This one is at Leichhardt Oval against current Ericsson League leaders, UTS Olympic.

Kick off is 7.30pm, with an early Youth League between Olympic and St George starting at 5.30pm.

Jubilo Iwata has already drawn 1-1 with Marconi and beaten St George BSC by two goals to nil. Tonight's final clash against Olympic presents the last opportunity for Sydney fans to see Brazil's brilliant 1994 World Cup winning captain, Dunga in action.

The tenacious 'Dunga', Dunga means the little white dwarf, although suffering a badly swollen left ankle prior to his arrival in Australia, insisted to Jubilo's Master Coach and former Dutch



international Youth striker Johan 'Hans' Ooft, that he played against Marconi and St George.

The always competitive Dunga told ABSW, "This pre-season tour for exhibition matches against some of your Australian teams has been excellent preparation for us."

"Marconi were very good, strong and solid opponents and the young St George side gave us a good run as well," reflected the World's currently most prestigious national captain.

Touring with Jubilo is Italia '90 top-goal-ace,

Salvatore 'Toto' Schillaci who took no part in either of the two previous games here.

Last Thursday night at St George Stadium in the grandstand whilst watching his team-mates do battle with St George, 'Toto' was taken by two of Peter Katholos' Saints players.

This led to Schillaci commenting to ABSW, "I was impressed by St George's goalkeeper, Tony Kostadinovski and their left striker, Johnny Buonavoglia."

Meanwhile Olympic's coach, David Ratcliffe relishing a good hit-out against the Japanese, stated last night, "I'm looking forward to this game to see how we stack up against their technical-styled fulltime professionals."

As well as Dunga and Schillaci, Jubilo's squad has four current Olympic, six former Japan internationals plus former Dutch international, Gerald Mervin Vanenburg.

STAR PROFILE

Dunga

JUBILO IWATA



Date of Birth: October 31, 1963
Birthplace: Ilui-Rio Grande, Do Sul (southern Brazil)

Previous Clubs: Internacional, Vasco Da Gama, Santos (Brazil), Pisa, Fiorentina (Italy), Stuttgart (Germany)

Current Club: Jubilo Iwata (Japan)

Position: centre midfield

Nickname: "Dunga" (the white dwarf)

Marital Status: Married to Vanda

Two children (Gabriella 9, Bruno 7)

Occupation: professional footballer

Best Aspect Of Your Game: Experience and competitive qualities

Most Difficult Opponent: Diego Maradona and Roberto Baggio

Favourite Overseas Player: Roberto Baggio (Italy) and George Weah (AC Milan)

Favourite Overseas Club: Barcelona

Euro '96 Tip: Italy

Qualities for a good Coach: The ability to transmit to each player with extreme simplicity all aspects of strategies in the game that he wishes to be understood

Most Unwelcome Dinner Guest: "This I cannot answer"

Honours: All Brazilian national teams since 1987

Ambitions For 1996: To lead Brazil to a gold medal win at the Atlanta Olympic Games

Ambitions After Retiring: To become manager of a first division team in a top soccer country

Most Memorable Moment: Brazil's 1994 World Cup

Hobbies Outside Soccer: All outings with my family

Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Branco's freekick for Brazil against Holland in the 1994 World Cup quarter-finals

Favourite Food: pasta

Favourite Drink: Red wine

Car You Drive: I have no car

Favourite TV Show: Fausto Sy Silva (Brazilian show)

TV Show You Refuse To Watch: All crimes and war films

Favourite Movie: Classic westerns

Favourite Actor/Actress: Kevin Costner and Sonia Braga

Preferred Music: Italian and 1970s music

Least Preferred Music: None

Favourite Comedian: Bennini (Italian)

Pet Hates: War and religion

Advice To Young Players: Everything you do in the game and in life make sure you do with all the strength from your heart

Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Gianni Agnelli (owner of Juventus)

and FIAT car manufacturer

By John Economos

UTS OLYMPIC

V

JUBILO IWATA

TONIGHT

Tuesday, February 27

Kick Off 7.30PM

LEICHARDT OVAL



David Barrett



Dunga

YOUTH LEAGUE CURTAIN RAISER

UTS Olympic v St George

Kick Off 5.30PM

Come and see Brazil's World Cup winning captain take on the Ericsson Cup leaders

Sydney lights turned on by Marconi efforts

Dear Sir,

As an Australian sports supporter of over 25 years I am disgusted with the behaviour of David Hill.

I do not follow soccer with religious passion, however I do know which teams are successful and well organised and Marconi Fairfield are definitely among them.

I am well aware of Marconi president Tony Labbozzetta's present troubles. The facts are these:

(a) A court of law has found that Mr Labbozzetta and his colleagues DID NOT obtain financial benefit over the Paul Okon transfer and DID NOT act dishonestly.

(b) The matters relied upon by Soccer Australia, as detailed in the Senate Commission Reports, are unsupported by the Licensing Court examination of the Okon Transfer.

Soccer Australia through its Chairman, Mr Hill, has seemingly decided to 'go after' this prominent soccer official of many years.

Is the battle to retain the two dumped clubs at the beginning of this season the catalyst for this vendetta?

Everybody knows that Mr Labbozzetta was instrumental in mustering support for the retention of these clubs in the National League. Mr Hill's profile has certainly given a soccer a man who the television cameras flock to, and I will accept this is good for the game.

However, what has he truly done for the game. We were promised quality opponents for the national team, and how successful was he? Sweden and Japan. John Constantine achieved that as well.

What happened to England, Brazil, Ireland and Netherlands? Are we to credit him with the 'rise' in crowds too? Up 25% so far we are told. Let's analyse it.

Olympic had a terrible season last year and are now leading. Their crowds are up, Marconi had a disastrous season last year and are now second. Their crowds are up. South Melbourne have a brand new stadium which has drawn incredible crowds thus far. These three clubs are the league's traditional crowd pullers and account for a large proportion of the increase. Other clubs are artificially boosting their crowd figures to keep up. There is the 25% increase, thanks Mr Hill.

His attack on national television, "the name Marconi has always been a problem" is another example of his xenophobia.

Other members of the global community embrace ethnic diversity as indeed does Australia, except when it comes to soccer it seems.

Suburbs have been named after ethnic people. For example, La Perouse, Leichhardt, Melbourne, San Souci and Adelaide.

The name of Marconi is well known as being the father of wireless communications. It is equally well acknowledged as being the name of a very successful soccer team in Sydney's west.

This great scientist's only crime to Australian soccer seems to be that his surname ends with a vowel. His name means much to Australia as his invention led to a wireless transmission from the other side of the planet to subsequently turn on the lights at Sydney Town Hall.

This incident in the early part of this century, brought the whole world a lot closer to Australia.

Roy Romeo, Bossley Park, NSW.

Australia reverted to old tactics

Dear Sir,

I watched the two matches against Japan on television. I enjoyed the first game. Japan were skilful, quick and inventive.

Quite frankly, they were too good for us and deserved to win as decisively as they did, even if a couple of their goals were a little lucky.

Australia's response was to become more physical. Despite Thomson's bleatings, I thought that the referee did well. He handed out a number of cards but they were deserved.

Wednesday's game was a different matter. Australia seemed to revert to the old Arok tactics — if it moves and isn't in yellow, kick it. It was a brutal affair.

Australia got a result, but it might have been different with a competent and neutral referee who responded to persistent fouls with more than a series of free kicks.

I was very disappointed because, during the past two or three years, the Australian team has tried to outplay rather than intimidate classy opponents.

It has been a welcome development and one we should persist with. We now have players who play well, with skill and imagination, and the coach and public should insist that they do so.

R. Sherlock,
Darlinghurst, NSW.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Due to the ever-increasing volume of Letters to the Editor, only correspondence of less than 400 words will be considered for publication.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

Name viewed as part of Australia

Dear Sir,

I am a relatively new convert to Australian soccer and now attend every Marconi-Fairfield home match.

But I am increasingly concerned with the ASF's campaign (led by David Hill) against Marconi president Tony Labbozzetta.

It seems to me that his problem is a direct power struggle.

Mr Hill's comments on SBS television stating that the name 'Marconi' was not acceptable to the mainstream support that Australian Soccer is trying to entice, is nothing short of scandalous.

I am not of Italian heritage and yet was enticed to become a member, of what I deem to be the best club in Sydney.

The name Marconi did not attract nor discourage my patronage of the club as I view the name as being generic and part of the furniture in Australia. The club was named after the brilliant man who assisted in the early development of wireless transmissions.

If that makes it unacceptable to the bigot minds such as David Hill's then perhaps we should also look to rename the Logie Awards as well. After all, this great man was the inventor of television and not Australian.

The question I am asking is, what will changing the Marconi name do to increase the profile of soccer in

Australia? The answer is nothing.

Marconi are the most successful club in the history of the National League. They have won the competition on four occasions and hold the highest goals for record of all clubs, since the NSL's inception back in 1977.

Winning record aside, it is also perceived as the most professionally administered soccer club and is well known as Marconi around

and indeed the world. This famous club is the closest thing that we have to a Manchester United or AC Milan.

Further controversies have developed lately with Mr Hill wanting Marconi to dump Tony Labbozzetta as its voice at the Australian Soccer Federation.

I know little of the Paul Okon transfer, however, I do know that his incident has been investigated by courts

of law and no Marconi directors were implicated with any acts of dishonesty or financial benefits.

How can Hill justify his campaign against a man who has given 27 years of his life to the game of soccer.

There have been media reports that Mr Hill was interested in running for parliament in the upcoming Federal election.

Does that mean Mr Hill was ready to dump soccer?

His tenure as boss of the ABC, showed him to be an actual nemesis of soccer. Wasn't he the one to dump soccer from the national screen in favour of more Australian sports such as American Football.

The one true friend of soccer in television is the SBS network.

Soccer Australia is now attempting to cut its traditional ties with SBS.

I have another question for Socer Weekly readers? Is David Hill a friend of soccer?

Perhaps the answer is: Was he ever?



David Hill: "Dumped soccer from ABC TV".

Hindmarsh a disgrace

Dear Sir,

The Hindmarsh Stadium is a disgrace and badly in need of repair. If Soccer Australia had a safety criteria like they do in England, Hindmarsh Stadium would certainly fail.

Not only because it is not an all seater stadium but because the SASF don't keep it up to scratch. For instant the scoreboard was moved over three months ago, but the terraces down the South Road end are still covered in rocks the size of golf balls.

Not only dangerous for the fans but the players as well.

There are also five metre high fences

behind both goals with no emergency gates. The strange thing was they were put in after the infamous Hillsborough Stadium disaster.

Another concern after matches is only two of the three exits are opened with the biggest exit only being opened during finals. This often causes crushes after a game.

It's a shame really, soccer is starting to go forward in eastern Australia and soon too in the West, but in Adelaide we are falling behind.

Shane Kelly,
Hope Valley, SA.

Reality much more complex than imagined

Dear Sir,

After reading your guest columnist Henry Wizgier's column in the February 9 edition of your paper, I can only echo the thoughts of my fellow Tasmanian, John Quigly (Letters 9.2.96).

Mr Quigly said that incorrect facts and poor grammar reduced the value of some correspondents' arguments to little more than hot air and cast a question mark over their credibility.

In Mr Wizgier's column about the influence of the Croatian, Greek and Italian clubs on Australian soccer, particularly in Melbourne and Sydney, where he claims this 'triumvirate' of ethnic groups rules the roost, he makes reference to the 'original triumvirate', which he writes "...was made up of Julius Caesar, Pompey and Cassius," whom he also calls Italians.

Please, Mr Wizgier, get your history correct. the triumvirate you refer to was composed of Caesar, Pompey and Crassus. Cassius appears in Shakespeare's play "Julius Caesar". Incidentally, all three were Romans, not Italians.

If Mr Wizgier gets such facts wrong, how much of his argument can the reader believe in?

He also points to Sydney and Melbourne being different to certain overseas cities such as London, Rome, Manchester and Barcelona when it comes to having a club that represents the entire city or citizens of that city.

Does he really think that Chelsea fans believe that Arsenal represents London, or that Tottenham Hotspur or Wimbledon do?

Does he really believe that Lazio fans think Roma represents the citizens of the eternal city, or that Manchester City supporters believe Manchester United represents the city of Manchester?

Barcelona fans know that they represent Catalonia while the city's other club, Espanol, represents the 'enemy', namely the Spanish.

I'm afraid, Mr Wizgier, the reality of the situation is much more complex than you can imagine and that one must get one's facts straight before one can even begin to understand, reasons and argue a case that is plausible to readers and followers of the game.

William Chalmers,
Glenorchy, Tas.

Editor's Note: Crassus became Cassius during editing. Apologies.

Crowd imbalance

Dear Sir,

Australia v Japan: Wollongong, population app. 230,000. 8396 people see the Socceroos play Japan. Melbourne, population app. 3,000,000. 4947 people see the Socceroos play Japan. Where are the 10,000+ South Melbourne fans?

Maybe their loyalties lie somewhere in Southern Europe. Enough said.

Cameron Atfield,
Woody Point, Qld.

PS: Can somebody tell me who the Aussie at Walsall is?

Coverage for Tasmania?

Dear Sir,

Hear! Hear! I write in support of Dr Peter Bayliss, who, in a letter published in ABSW on February 6, 1996, suggests that ABSW cover soccer in Tasmania. Good on you Dr Bayliss!

You have the support of all Tasmanian soccer fans.

We only have one or two places in Tassie where we can buy ABSW, but I know of many people who have friends or relatives who send them copies of ABSW regularly. In this way, they are able to keep up with the Aussie interstate soccer scene.

ABSW did cover Tasmania for 13 years through its Tasmanian correspondent, Walter Pless, who also occasionally writes for the London-based magazine "World Soccer". How many other Aussie soccer writers can boast that?

Come on ABSW! Give Tassie a place in your pages again. We are, after all, one of Australia's six states or don't you mainlanders know that?

Pat Scanlon,
Launceston, Tas.

VIAREGGIO '96

Marconi do Australia proud

The Marconi Fairfield Youth team has returned from Italy where they competed in the highly prestigious Viareggio Tournament.

The young Australian ambassadors came home with a wealth of experience gained from playing against some of the very best youth in the world.

Many of the finest players have competed in this tournament of whom Gabriel Batistuta, Pat Bonner and Robert Prosinecki are a small selection.

The Italian press devote substantial coverage to Viareggio. For example the daily sports paper, 'Corriere dello Sport' had half a page for each stage of the tournament. The weekly 'Guerin Sportivo' of February 6, produced a six page special preview.

Viareggio kicked off in 1949 with Milan the first winners. Invitations to non-Italian teams have been a feature. Partizan Belgrade won in 1951.

Twenty four teams played in this year's competition.

Playing for Brescia, the eventual winners, was eighteen year old Roberto Baroni who is on the books of Juventus. They invested about \$8 million for his services.

Marconi-Fairfield has returned from one of the world's most prestigious youth tournaments satisfied that they did Australia proud.

The invitation-only Viareggio tournament, held in the central Italian region of Tuscany, is contested by leading youth teams from all over the world.

Cesena reached the semi-finals where they lost to fellow second division club Brescia. Brescia went on to become winners three goals to one over Parma.

Past champions in Viareggio's 48 year history include AC Milan, Juventus and Fiorentina.

RESULTS: Quarter Finals' Lazio 2 Torino 1, Fiorentina 0 Parma 0, Parma won 3-0 on penalties, Atalanta 0 Brescia 1 AET, Cesena 1 Bari 0.

Semi Finals' Lazio 0 Parma 0, Parma won 4-3 on penalties, Cesena 0 Brescia 5.

Final - Brescia 3 Parma 1.



For the Marconi team to be part of this elite company was indeed a great honour.

The cold Italian Northern

winter and some over zealous local refereeing were always going to play a part in the tournament. When Marconi eventually succumbed to Palermo in the third Group Four match, all these factors had contributed to the ultimate result.

**CESENA 4
MARCONI 1**

February 5, 1996

In sub zero temperatures at Viareggio, the Marconi team were far removed from their balmy Sydney summer.

The young Stallions found themselves 2-0 down



at half-time and were competing well against one of the semi-final favourites. With three minutes of the second half gone, Vaughan Hunter pulled one back for the Aussies and had the Italians worried.

A 53rd minute goal killed off the ambitious Marconi and a final goal right on full-time by Juventus recruit Zanetti made for a 4-1 scoreline that belied the closeness of the match.

The Cesena coach congratulated Lee Sterrey after the match on Marconi's skills, maturity and competitiveness. Marconi had won some instant respect despite the scoreline.

**AC ROMA 2
MARCONI 1**

February 9, 1996

The millionaire Serie A club was given a fright by the gallant Australians in Pisa for the second match.

A more relaxed and confident Marconi, playing under a more suitable Pisan sunshine, displayed tremendous tenacity against their more illustrious opponents.

Marconi striker John Angelucci hit the crossbar in the 23rd minute before Roma took the lead with a dubious free-kick in the 38th minute.

The referee adjudicated that goalkeeper Leslie Pogliacomi held the ball for too long.

Michael Cunico levelled the scores in the 51st minute before Roma took an unassailable lead 11 minutes later.

The Marconi team were generously applauded off the Stadium Garibaldi in Pisa, and proved their mettle.

**PALERMO 3
MARCONI 0**

February 12, 1996

A tired and still quarter-final aspirant Marconi, needed to win by two clear goals to progress to the next stage. This time last year the two teams met and Marconi were given a football lesson with an 8-0 thumping. After conceding the opening goal, Marconi's resolve was broken and the ultimate 3-0 scoreline was an unjust finale to a very successful tour and, in particular, a tremendous public relations success for Australian soccer.

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MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Dobson confident of success

New Melbourne Knights coach, Ian Dobson, is confident the National League champions can win back-to-back titles despite the exodus of top players from the club this season.

The Knights are just holding onto a berth in the top six and are a shadow of the side which beat Adelaide City 2-0 in the grand final last year.

Gone are gun striker Mark Viduka, quality sweeper Steve Horvat and midfielder Kresimir Marusic, while Mark Silic left two weeks ago to play in Singapore.

Crowds are down by almost 50 per cent from last season and the team is scoring less than a goal a game. Before last weekend, only bottom side

Wollongong City has netted less goals this term.

Yet, despite the squad being hit by injuries, departures and suspension, Dobson still believes the Knights can lift themselves out of the doldrums.

"Defensive-wise, we're just as strong as we've ever been," he said. "We've lost Horvat but we've unearthed an 18-year-old, in Josip Simunic, who, given time, could be just as good."

Dobson replaced Mirko Bazic last month and lost his first league game against Adelaide at the Melbourne Croatian Sports Centre on February 18.

He was always going to find it difficult replacing the most successful coach in the club's history, but his job has



MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS

been made still tougher by the loss of Silic, which has left the Knights without a midfield playmaker.

On top of that, Dobson heard last week that his striker Joe Bacak could miss the rest of the season with a broken ankle.

"You can't lose quality players like Horvat, Viduka and Marusic and not expect it to affect a young side," said Dobson.

"But they were gone before I came," he added.

"I didn't expect to lose Silic. There is no-one at the club like a Jason Polak or a Micky Petersen to replace him. It's going to be very difficult scoring goals because our strikers are not getting the supply."

Socceroo Tiatto has failed to land a contract with English Premier League club Leeds United.

Tiatto didn't do enough to impress Leeds officials in a three-week trial at Elland Road and has returned to play out the rest of the season.

The aggressive and speedy winger was in the Socceroo squad for the first Sweden match last Sunday.

Knights general manager Mirko Cugura said Tiatto's misfortune could be a godsend for the club which has been hit by injuries, departures and suspension this season.

"It is disappointing for Danny but he is young and there will be plenty of opportunities for him in the future," Cugura said.

Cugura said the 22-year-old may have had problems acclimatising to the bitter cold after leaving Australia's summer. Britain is suffering its coldest winter in 20 years and Tiatto was surprised that even snow didn't stop Leeds from training.

"Put it this way, I don't think the weather would have helped him," said Cugura.

NEWCASTLE

Goal-scoring increased four-fold

BY DANE SKAFTE

Newcastle's talented midfielder, Troy Halpin showed outstanding form against the Canberra Cosmos by scoring a hat-trick in a game that was action packed full of goals.

Halpin had in fact scored only once before in the national competition. That was the end of last season.

"I was fairly happy with the goals. I combined with the rest of the team for the first half."

"But we defended badly and this cost us the game," Halpin said.

"To get three goals in one match is magic," he said. "I am still getting used to the new position of playing out wide."

"When you have been playing midfield for the past 16 years it is a new learning experience."

"I actually moved into the front line without even thinking about it," Halpin said.

Halpin has been playing in the midfield position for the past two months in the Ericsson Cup.

Newcastle defender Darren Stewart played his last game for the Breakers on Friday night at Brandon Park in Wollongong.

Stewart leaves later on this week to return overseas to his Malaysian club, Johore.

Stewart has signed for a further two years until the end of 1997.

He has played 14 games with the Breakers this season nine games in the Ericsson Cup and five games in the Johnnie Walker Cup.

"I have enjoyed my stay in Newcastle but I look forward to returning to Johore," Stewart said.

Stewart has been a major force in the Newcastle side this season and will be sorely missed.

Breakers defender Garry Wilson suffered a major setback last week after returning from a recent groin operation.

He suffered a knee injury in the last incident of the game and is in doubt for the rest of the season.



BRISBANE STRIKERS

Advertising gone to his head

GLENN DAVIS

Some players will go to just about any lengths to earn a dollar but what the Strikers' fans saw in their last home match certainly was a doozy.

A logo of one of the Strikers' major sponsors, Uhlsport, kept "bobbing" up everywhere on the ground, courtesy of Strikers erratic midfielder Andrew Brayshaw (right).

At first Brayshaw appeared to be carrying a new punk style haircut, but fans already knew he had a nearly clean shaven scone.

Some fans, obviously observing from quite a distance, thought it was some drunken barber's



attempt at a mohawk while Brayshaw reminded many of the skinhead movie Romper Stomper.

On closer observation it was realised Brayshaw's hairdresser had fashioned the Uhlsport logo featuring a large "U" from what hair the midfielder had growing back.

Mick Matule, the Queensland supremo of

Uhlsport, said Brayshaw approached the company with a proposition which had similarities to cricketer Shane Warne who wears a Nike earring.

"We went along with it providing it didn't embarrass us or the Strikers," Matula said.

"The reaction has been super and it was done in great spirit."

"People were wondering what it was until they got a good look."

Brayshaw, who's now wearing a hat to save embarrassment, vowed he would repeat the feature last weekend when the Strikers played away against South Melbourne.



SOUTH MELBOURNE

Orlic sets tough target

Nick Orlic: Job offer was too good to refuse.

South Melbourne's new signing Nick Orlic admits the aura of former Socceroo coach Frank Arok was a major drawing factor in him joining the club.

The ex-UTS Sydney defender had a choice of three clubs when he went to Melbourne last month to take up a job as a graphic artist, before he settled on Arok's Blues.

Orlic, who has set himself a target of earning a Socceroo cap in the next two years, said Arok was keen to sign him as far back as 1994.

"I really enjoy Frank because he has a great passion for the game," Orlic said.

"If you want to learn about soccer from anyone in Australia, he's the one. I've never played under him



before but I remember how tough it was when we played Marconi with him in charge."

South Melbourne parted with \$16,000 for Orlic but the defender was an embarrassing flop in his debut game for his new club three weeks ago, being dragged off at halftime after his Marconi opponent Francis Awaritefe booted two of a hat-trick of goals.

Orlic was getting over a

virus and hadn't played a game for more than a month.

"Look I felt terrible. They spend all that money and then I go out and perform like that," Orlic said.

What made it worse was that it was in front of 7000 South Melbourne fans at Lakeside Stadium.

"I know Frank knows I can play but I just want to prove to the other people what I can do," said Orlic.

Orlic's timing at leaving Olympic couldn't be any worse with the Sydney club vying for top spot and a favourite to play in this year's grand final, but the tall defender has no regrets.

He received a job offer he couldn't refuse and believes he has picked a club with a great future.



Darren Stewart: Returning to Johore in the M-League for a further two years.

WOLLONGONG

Other clubs beware warns coach

BY PHIL MURPHY



Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos (below) is prepared to make personal sacrifices in a bid to get his team firing.

Theodorakopoulos operates a successful travel agency in Sydney but is taking a day off every week to conduct extra training sessions.

Last week, he spent Wednesday in Wollongong and organised a 7am session.

At 6.30pm, the Wolves players were back on deck for an evening session. Theodorakopoulos told ABSW he believed he had no alternative if he wanted his team to compete with most of the other clubs.

He said these clubs were adopting a far more professional approach this season.

"We have to organise ourselves properly during the week to be able to compete on level terms at the weekend," the coach said.

"My players have reacted with plenty of enthusiasm."

"After getting a point in Brisbane, the boys were in great spirits and determined to get away from the bottom of the table."

"That point was our first in the league since I took on the job and it could prove very important to us."

Unknown in Wollongong before his appointment, Theodorakopoulos deserves credit for getting his squad a lot fitter than before he arrived.

"We had to do far more physical work than I would have expected at that stage of the season," he said.

"Things have started to come together and the local supporters will have plenty of cheer about before the end of the season."

Theodorakopoulos has strong links with Wollongong — for all the wrong reasons.

A very talented striker during his days with Sydney Olympic, he broke a leg playing against the Wolves at Wollongong Showground.

After cracking the leg on resuming training, he was sidelined again but a doctor told him he was "a million to one chance" of breaking the leg again.

Theodorakopoulos went back to Olympic, regained his spot in the attack but broke his leg again — against Wollongong at Pratten Park.

"The doctor didn't give me odds about breaking the leg again against the same team," Theodorakopoulos said.

After recovering from that break, Theodorakopoulos had a season with Leichhardt but then decided against tempting fate.

He started his coaching career with Alexandria in the NSW Soccer Federation Third Division and later moved on to First Division Belmore.

Belmore were at the bottom of the league when he arrived, but they won last year's premiership and Theodorakopoulos was hungry for success at a higher level.

Sydney entrepreneur Harry Michaels, a long-time friend of the coach and also a good friend to the Wolves, was instrumental in getting Theodorakopoulos to Brandon Park.

He is paying his wages and is keen to strengthen the team for next season.

"Harry wants to help my career and is just as keen to see Wollongong do well in the Ericsson Cup," Theodorakopoulos said.

"I believe the club has a big future."

"Other clubs should be very wary of this team for the remainder of the season."



ADELAIDE CITY

Soccer journeyman set to rejoin Zebras

BY PETER KRUPKA



Soccer journeyman Ernie Tapai is set to rejoin Adelaide City from Morwell Falcons and could be playing in Zebra colours this season.

Tapai has accepted a job transfer to Adelaide and asked City if he could join them.

The 29-year-old former Socceroo, left Australia and played in England and Portugal before he returned home. Zebra coach, John Perin said the club would have no problem finding a place for him.

"I've always admired Tapai. I think I was one of the instigators in getting him here in the first place," Perin said.

"The deal is almost signed, sealed and delivered.

"We've basically agreed to terms but whether he comes now or at the end of the season is the question."

Tapai would need to make the switch within a fortnight to be able to play for City in the current National League

season.

"His next couple of years as a player could be his best," Perin said.

"He's probably at the most stable point of his career both financially and with his family — it's generally a good age for most players."

The Zebras played host to touring J-League side Urawa Red Diamonds at Hindmarsh Stadium last Wednesday.

An under-manned Zebra side relied on its crop of young players to help it to a 4-2 victory with Kosta Salapasidis, Adrian Iandorio, Angelo Costanzo and Craig Foster each scoring for the home side.

City were forced to play the match without its five-

man Socceroo contingent against the Japanese side led by former French international Basile Boli.

However the fans were deprived of seeing the Red Diamonds other big international names — German World Cup heroes Guido Buchwald and Uwe Bein — who were both forced from the field injured inside 20 minutes of the first half.

"It would have been a different kettle of fish if they had the two German players for longer," Perin said.

"It was a bit of a pity for the spectators not getting a chance to see those World Cup players in action."

The Red Diamonds recovered from the loss to beat South Australia, coached by former City boss Zoran Matic, 6-3 on Saturday at the Newton Sports Field.

The high-scoring match was played in scorching 35 degree heat and three of the goals — two from the Red Diamonds and one from SA — came in the first six minutes of play.



Ernie Tapai: Job transfer to Adelaide made him target for Perin.

WEST ADELAIDE

Natural progression from player to coach, Santrac

BY PETER KRUPKA



Former Adelaide City and West Adelaide player, Adrian Santrac will replace newly-appointed Olyroo coach Raul Blanco as the Sharks' head coach next season.

The West board approved the promotion of the club's current assistant coach to the top job last week.

Having spent the past four seasons as Blanco's deputy, it was expected Santrac would be given the job and Sharks president Harry Zacharoyannis wasted no time in confirming his appointment.

"I was more hopeful (about being appointed coach) than expectant," Santrac said.

"The original idea was to work under Raul as understudy and eventually take over when Raul was leaving but there was never any set time frame."

Santrac, 37, played more than 150 games at Adelaide City and was a pivotal part of Zoran Matic's 1986 championship winning team.

He retired from the club in 1991 and was loaned to West and played about 30 more NSL games with the Sharks when they were readmitted to the national competition.

Apart from his back-up coaching at West, he has also been deputy since 1994 to Matic in the former City maestro's role as South Australian team coach.

While his appointment as Blanco's successor has been swift, Santrac said he was ready to face the challenge as senior national league coach.

"I don't have any doubts at all. I've had a very good grounding in the game, a good apprenticeship under Raul and the best part of 10



Raul Blanco: Club has confirmed Adrian Santrac as his successor.

years playing under Zoran Matic," he said.

"I've been under the best two coaches in the country over the past 10 years or so."

"It's very much a natural progression from playing to coaching. As a young player I didn't really harbour any thoughts about continuing into coaching but as I was drawing to the end of my career, it started to play on my mind more and more."

Santrac was one of only a few players to have played with both South Australian National League sides and said it took some time to get over the bond he had with Zebras but insisted he was now a devoted Shark.

"I spent the best year of my life with Adelaide City and developed a strong tie there," he said.

"When I first joined West Adelaide there were occasions when it was sometimes difficult not to feel emotional in some ways for Adelaide City."

"But business is business and it didn't take long to feel the same things about West Adelaide and the people that work so long and hard at the club."



Trajanovski breaks Olympic record

**UTS
OLYMPIC 3
WEST
ADELAIDE 2**

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

UTS Olympic's ace goalscoring hero, Kris Trajanovski, yet again got his side out of jail with two specials to lift Olympic to a 3-2 win over a gallant, West Adelaide last Sunday at Leichhardt Oval.

West Adelaide had streaked to a shock 2-0 lead by the 29th minute, through a brilliant brace scored by their former World Youth striker, Jimmy Tsekinis that had Olympic groggy and on the ropes.

But the luckless South Australians suffered a triple disaster when they first lost their playmaker Branko Milosevic 27 minutes in with a thigh strain. Then it was

SCORERS: Olympic: Trajanovski (47, 50), Slager (67 og). West: J.Tsekinis (18 and 29) **YELLOW CARDS:** Olympic: Ardone (78) West: Kokkinoplitis (3), Milosevic (15), Cardozo (77) **POY:** 3-Trajanovski (Olympic), 2-Tsekinis (West), 1-Zelic (Olympic) **CROWD:** 8,268 **REFEREE:** G. Connolly

midfielder Richard Alagich at the break with a twisted ankle, and ultimately fell behind in the 67th minute for the first time in the match through a tragic 'own-goal' by their reliable stopper Robbie Slager.

Olympic's lanky substitute Elias Augerinos, just two minutes after coming on to replace striker Derek Poimer, lashed in a long-range rocketing drive that crashed onto the crossbar and ricocheted to

Trajanovski. Trajanovski instantly smashed in a vicious square ball which hit Slager and deflected off him and into the target.

This goal was his 17th of the season and broke the previous club record set by striker Marshall Soper in 1982. Five minutes into the second half Trajanovski climbed high over defenders to head in on the back post an excellent Derek Poimer-cross.

In the first session West Adelaide playing a 3-5-2 formation totally outplayed the 'Blue and Whites' who naively persisted with a 5-2-3 formation, and this dominance was mirrored by the scoreboard with the South Australians leading 2-1 at the break.

For almost the entire first session Olympic's twin central midfielders Peter Tsekinis and Norman Tome, struggled to hold West Adelaide's numerically superior midfield-quintet of Jim Keramidas, Ayrton

Andrioli, Milosevic, Alagich and Frank Tibaldi.

In the second session this situation was rapidly rectified as Kimon Taliadoros repeatedly dropped back to bolster the middle-line and left-sided Nick Meredith pushed up to also stiffen Olympic's 'gear-box'.

Stocky young striker Jim Tsekinis scored a brilliant double, the first in the 18th minute when he cleverly broke away down the left from a fine ball by central midfielder Branko Milosevic. Tsekinis easily rounded Olympic's captain and centre-back David Barrett, before elegantly stabbing a low angled shot between the post and goalkeeper George Bouhoussos.

"I was so tempted to hit it across to the far side but luckily I spotted their



Kris Trajanovski: Went past Marshall Soper's 1982 sixteen goals.

sweeper coming across in cover, so I went for the narrow gap", Tsekinis later explained to ABSW.

Tsekinis nailed his second

in the 29th minute after meeting a fine cross from the right fired in by right midfielder Keramidas to have Olympic down by a shock 0-2 inside the half hour.

Two minutes into injury time of the first session, Olympic at long last finally started their comeback as they opened their score when a flat cross from left midfielder Nick Meredith, but from the right side, was touched on by midfielder Norman Tome. Peter Tsekinis cleverly jumped over the ball unselfishly allowing his striker Kris Trajanovski racing in behind him to score.

David Ratcliffe, reflected "It took us 30 minutes to wake up and in that time they scored two goals. As soon as we got our first goal just before the break I believed that we

could go on and win. Kris Trajanovski I thought was most unlucky not to have scored a hat-trick".

A stunned Raul Blanco, Wests' coach, could only lament: "We played very well in the first half but as soon as we lost Branko (Milosevic) and Richard (Alagich) we were without our two contractive midfielders, then we had to do more of the chasing. When Olympic scored I knew they were getting back into the game and they started to look very dangerous".

OLYMPIC: Bouhoussos, Ardone, Ciantar, Zelic, Barrett, Meredith (Bove 80), Tome (Valas 85), Tsekinis, Taliadoros, Poimer (Augerinos 65), Trajanovski.

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Alagich (Thorp 46), Slager, Tibaldi, Kokkinoplitis, Aloisi, Milosevic (Cardozo 27), Andrioli (Scott Morrison 52), Keramidas, Tsekinis, Iriarte.

Lack of stars shows in result

**SOUTH
MELBOURNE 0
BRISBANE
STRIKERS 0**

BY CON STAVROS

South Melbourne's chances of making the play-offs took a nosedive on the weekend, at Bob Jane Stadium, after they failed to make any impression on a vastly understrength Brisbane.

Despite the absence of ace Paul Trimboli for the Blues, the visitors were the poorer for personnel with seven of their regular starting line-up on the injury list, including striker Frank Farina.

Miffed by the comments of Marconi's Manfred Schaefer from a fortnight earlier about south being immature and not capable of making the play-offs, the Blues had plenty of inspiration going into the game, but rarely translated it into sparkling play.

Brisbane's Bruce Stowell certainly wasn't converted by Frank Arok's team of teenagers either.

"To be quite honest I thought they (South Melbourne) were mediocre," said Stowell when asked what he thought of the opposition. "They played in spurts, but we were by far the better side."

Whilst the game was perhaps much more even than Stowell's comments suggest, it did throw up more question marks about South right across the park.

Goalkeeper Michael Petkovic is clearly outstanding, but was made to work a lot harder than he should have by some sloppy defending,

YELLOW CARDS: South: Orlac (50) Brisbane: Ditton (75) **POY:** 3-Ditton (Brisbane), 2-Kuzmanovic (South), 1-Damianos (South) **CROWD:** 5,341 **REFEREE:** B. Hugo

particularly from full-back Con Blatsis who had his worst game for South Melbourne since joining the club at the start of the season.

Central defender Nick Orlac still looked rusty and whilst fellow central defender John-Paul Knezevic was marginally better, the Blues can thank sweeper Alex Kuzmanovic for at least salvaging a point.

Kuzmanovic managed to also involve himself in a number of attacks, with Vaughan Coveney virtually a lone striker for South after David Allsopp was replaced at half-time. Alan Hunter, who is almost twice his age, thoroughly out-played the youngster.

Filled with poor passing and scrappy tackling, the match had little entertainment value outside of three headers that struck the crossbar.

South managed two of those, with Agim Sherifovski looping one onto the top of the bar in the 43rd minute and substitute Michael Curcija repeating the dose in the 70th.

Rod Brown struck his firm header from a Andy Brayshaw corner onto the underside of the bar 10 minutes into the second half, with the ball bouncing to safety, in the closest the match came to a goal.

Whilst Coveney has clearly

come into form, the lone battle was always beyond him given the excellent sweeping of Craig Williams and the influence of hunter and Chris Zoricich as stoppers.

Lacking midfielder Jason Polak who was on Socceroo duty, Danny Wright and Sean Cranney who are both injured, Brisbane still managed to control the midfield despite an impressive showing by Bill Damianos who filled Trimboli's role.

Brad Ditton and Gary Phillips were the catalyst for most of the Brisbane attacks, with Brown teaming up well with teenager Reece Tollenaere in attack.

Farina probably would have made the difference in the match, although Stowell was full of praise for the players he had on the park.

Traditionally poor travellers, the Strikers had no fears on South's home ground despite its reputation as a graveyard for visiting sides.

Brisbane looked sharper in the second half after South pushed out looking for the victory, capitalising on a number of poor passes by South Melbourne to set up raids on goal.

Clearly worried about being over-run in midfield, Arok even chose to substitute Mike Petersen with a quarter-hour remaining, despite the usual solid game from the experienced playmaker.

SOUTH: Petkovic, Blatsis, Kuzmanovic, Coveney, Sherifovski, Damianos, Petersen (Nikolic 76), Knezevic, Baser (Anthopoulos 79), Allsopp (Curcija HT), Orlac.

BRISBANE: Bolton, Zoricich, Williams, Hunter, Phillips, Brown, T. Cranney, Ditton, Brayshaw, Hews (Wehrman 80), Tollenaere.

Harper performs herculean feats

**MARCONI
FAIRFIELD 3
SYDNEY
UNITED 1**

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Andy Harper, Marconi's blockbusting, experienced striker, spearheaded his side in heroic style to a solid 3-1 win over Sydney United last Saturday night, in front of his home crowd.

Easily Man of the Match, ironically Harper failed to score, even when presented with a penalty opportunity four minutes into stoppage time in the first half.

Harper solely engineered all three Marconi goals with his excellent vision and passing. The goals were scored by Brad Maloney (38th), Francis Awaritefe (46th) and Brendan ('Richie') Renaud (85th).

Marconi came forward in the 29th minute through a combination involving Harper, Luke Casserly and Maloney but United's goalkeeper Andrew Crews, making only his second Ericsson Cup appearance, gallantly proved his worth.

Marconi drew first blood in the 38th minute. Harper from deep in his own half, screamed away on a 60 metre raid to slice past a stranded Richard Plesa, before crossing to the far post. A grateful Maloney chopped down and into the target Harper's excellent cross.

SCORERS: Marconi: Maloney (38), Awaritefe (46), Renaud (85). Sydney United: Z Babic (43).

YELLOW CARDS: Marconi: Casserly (45), Smith (47), Awaritefe (55), Harper (77). United: Bilokapic (45), Genc (47), Kupresak (88).

RED CARDS: Marconi: Casserly (82). United: Genc (89).

POY: 3-Harper (Marconi), 2-Crews (United), 1-Kupresak (United)

CROWD: 6,867 **REFEREE:** S. Micallef

United struck back two minutes from the end of the first half when Zelko Babic was on the spot to head a rebound, off Catlin, following a David Zdrilic drive.

Four minutes into first half time added on by referee, Simon Micallef, Marconi were awarded a penalty. Crews flashed across goal to deny Harper by pushing the ball onto the post and away.

Seconds after the break, Harper again stunned United as he whipped a cross from the left for Awaritefe to easily nod in and regain Marconi's lead.

Zdrilic and Ante Milicic both struck the bar for United within minutes of each other.

Close to full time Harper again gained possession and

spotting substitute midfielder Renaud free on his left, swung a perfect ball to him. Despite Renaud's final hit lacking power, the ball rolled in off the far post to seal United's fate.

After the match a very happy Marconi coach Manfred Schaefer highlighted, "This was a very significant result for us as in the previous 11 games over the past five or so years, we've managed zero wins, four draws and seven losses against them. The game was so quick all my midfielders had to run their backsides off."

Marconi's 28 year old well experienced and galloping striker, Andy Harper, who engineered all his team's three goals reflected, "Hopefully if you put enough blokes through you will be put through in other games. As far as my penalty miss, well their keeper took a gamble to dive the correct way and got a finger tip to it."

Meanwhile a completely frustrated, Branko Culina, could only lament: "The difference was that they had scorers that took their chances very well. I was not happy with any one of my players in particular after yet another loss."

MARCONI: Catlin, Holst, Stanton, Souris, Casserly, Maloney (Renaud 73), Hristodoulou (McDonald 81), Zoric, Smith, Harper, Awaritefe.

UNITED: Crews, Rusan (Trajkovski 54), M. Babic, Kupresak, Plesa, Zdrilic, Genc, Bilokapic, Z. Babic (Lamond 61), Milicic, Patikas (Enes 54).

ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS.

Resurgent Wolves lift themselves up

**WOLLONGONG CITY 4
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1**

BY PHIL MURPHY

A new-look, highly motivated Wollongong City toyed with Newcastle in the second half on their way to a 4-1 victory at Brandon Park on Friday night.

The win eased the wolves off the bottom of the table and coach Nick Theodorakopoulos rewarded his players with an extra training session.

After his first league success since arriving at the club, Theodorakopoulos called them in for a training session on Sunday morning.

No-one complained.

The work ethic Theodorakopoulos has demanded in recent weeks

SCORERS:
Wollongong: Ceccoli (34), Perinich (52 and 78), Jermen (74);
Newcastle: Lowe (39) penalty.

YELLOW CARDS:
Wollongong: Vrkic (39), Naumovski (43), Bourke (82); Newcastle: Hickman (16), Zane (76).

RED CARD:
Newcastle: Zane (87).

POY: 3-Naumovski (W), 2-Perinich (W), 1-Maier (N).

CROWD: 2,984

REFEREE: C. Diomis

is starting to pay off and his players obviously realise that.

"That was a very good win but it is only the first step for us," Theodorakopoulos said.

"There is still a long way to go and a lot of work to do."

"There were no stars out there — we played as a

team and got the right result."

"When it was 1-1 at half-time, I wasn't concerned because I could sense my players would go on with the job."

The home team looked comfortable early and deserved to go ahead in the 34th minutes.

Recent signing Alvin Ceccoli, in his first home game, angled the ball home after eluding defender Peter Ritchie and goalkeeper Craig Carter.

With David Lowe playing a lone hand up front, Newcastle had hardly troubled the Wolves defence before being awarded a 39th minute penalty.

Marker Joe Vrkic clipped Lowe's heels just inside the box and it was Lowe who drove home the spot kick.

Newcastle's hopes of a win were dashed seven minutes after the break.

Wolves livewire striker Tony Perinich took

advantage of a miskick from Darren Stewart to hammer the ball past Carter from the edge of the box.

With huge gaps appearing down the right, Wollongong got the ball wide at every opportunity through Lupcho Naumovski and Matt Horsley.

That combination provided the lead-up for Mario Jermen to make it 3-1 after 74 minutes.

Jermen was helped by another error at the back, Steve Hickman the culprit.

Near the end, it was Naumovski again causing problems on the right and Perinich made no mistake with another powerful finish.

To wind up a dismal night, Newcastle had replacement Clayton Zane sent off three minutes from the end for a second bookable offence.

Zane could consider himself unfortunate as his tackle on Horsley didn't

appear to deserve a card.

After watching his team concede nine goals in two games, Newcastle coach John Kosmina said they battled on until Wollongong got their third goal.

"That was the killer," Kosmina said.

"Perinich took his two goals really well but I felt we did a good job on him otherwise."

Kosmina has now lost Stewart back to Malaysia while Zane is suspended for his send-off and Hickman could miss four games after picking up another yellow card.

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Bourke, Horsley, Naumovski (Gjakovski 87), Perinich, Lloyd, Jermen (Laybutt 80), O'Shea, Pollari, Ceccoli, Vrkic (Bonetig 84).

NEWCASTLE: Carter, Hickman, Maier, Lowe, Halpin (Sanderson 80), Moore, Bennett (Sprod 75), Thomas (Zane 68), Pryce, Stewart, Ritchie.



Tony Perinich: Took advantage of miskick to score from edge of box.

Two goal deficit fight back

**CANBERRA COSMOS 3
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 3**

BY GRAHAM COOKE

For the second time in eight days Canberra Cosmos clawed back to earn a draw, this time 3-3 against Melbourne Knights, at Bruce Stadium, on Saturday.

Cosmos coach Mike Lyons and Knights counterpart Ian Dobson both left disappointed.

"We led by two goals for a good part of the game and should have killed it off," Dobson said.

"Instead we kept on coming forward and gave up too much possession. We played some good football in the first half, but surrendered our advantage in the second."

The Cosmos suffered two early let offs as first Toplica Popovich headed away a probing cross from Damian Vojtek with two Knights players lurking, then Vojtek again, running free on the left, took too long with his shot and eventually hacked the ball over the crossbar.

But it was third time unlucky for the Cosmos in the 22nd minute. Defender Paul Dee was pulled up for hand ball, Andrew Marth sent the free kick deep into the Canberra penalty area and Ice Kutlesovski drifting in from the left, headed through goalkeeper Steve

SCORERS: Canberra: Marth (46og), Castro (71), Perinovic (89)
Knights: Kutlesovski (27), T. Pondeljak (29), Cervinski (63)
YELLOW CARDS: Cosmos: Musitano (51), Mazis (81), Dunn (82). Knights: Pondeljak (63).
POY: 3-Cervinski (Knights), 2-Castro (Canberra), 1-Vojtek (Knights)
CROWD: 2,669
REFEREE: D. Crawford

Mautone's hands.

Seven minutes later the Cosmos were two down - the speedy Tomislav Pondeljak beat the



Tony Perinovic: Enabled Cosmos to draw level in final minute.

offside trap on the left, and with the Canberra defence in desperate pursuit gave Mautone little chance with a calmly struck shot.

It was close to half time before the homeside seriously worried Knights' Frank Juric.

A fluid movement involving the creative Alex Castro and Marko Perinovic ended with Njegosh Popovich forcing the giant goalkeeper into a diving save.

The Cosmos struck back in the first minutes of the second half, Dee pressing Marth into deflecting a ball into his own net.

David Cervinski restored the Knights two goal advantage with a flying header, then the best move of the game set the stage for an intense final 20 minutes.

Tony Lemezina at last utilising some of the skills he has exhibited only in flashes all season, set up Castro in a surging run which saw the young striker take the ball past Juric and slip it into an empty net.

With a minute to go it looked as if Melbourne might hold on but striker Perinovic sent the home fans away happy with a shot through a mass of disorganised Knights defenders to equalise.

CANBERRA: Mautone, Dee, Dunn, Kelly, Perinovic, T. Popovich (Lemezina 41), Castro, Koch, Musitano, Mazis, Njegosh Popovich (Dukic 61).

KNIGHTS: Juric, Buljubasic, Marth, Cervinski, Simunic, Lapsansky, Vojtek (Z. Markovski 63), Kovacevic, J. Markovski (Kutlesovski 6), Nastevski, T. Pondeljak.

Sweden finish better than Australia

**AUSTRALIA 0
SWEDEN 2**

Sweden sank Australia with two late goals, in the first clash of a two match series, in Brisbane on Sunday evening.

Graham Arnold and Joe Spiteri combined well up front as the Socceroos constantly pressured the Swedes for most of the first half, but their efforts went unrewarded.

Both teams had two clear scoring opportunities in the first 40 minutes but both were wasted.

Holland-based Arnold stamped his class on the game and almost broke the deadlock as he barged past a Swedish defender to head a Goran Lozanovski corner which only a reflex save by keeper Bengt Andersson stopped.

A minute later Arnold figured again with a brilliant flick over his shoulder to an unmarked Spiteri who only had Andersson to beat, but he muffed the chance.

Late in the half Australia's Alex Tobin almost deflected a cross into his own net, but the ball bounced over the top of Kalac and to the right of the goal.

Striker Andreas Andersson scored twice in the space of a minute just when it appeared certain that the Socceroos, ranked 52nd in the world, would hold the 12th ranked Swedes to a goal-less draw.

Two glaring defensive blunders in the 86th and 87th minutes proved Australia's downfall.

The first occurred

when Sweden's Teddy Lucic flighted over a cross from the right to unmarked substitute Peter Wibran whose header slammed into the right upright and rebounded across the face of the goal out of goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac's reach.

Andersson careered into the goalmouth, and, sliding at full stretch, steered the ball just inside the left post.

Andersson struck again less than a minute later when he capitalised on a mix-up in the Socceroo defence after Kalic had strayed to the edge of the penalty area on the left.

The Swedish striker latched onto the loose ball and prodded it into an open goal.

After a scoreless first half, the Socceroos came out after the interval determined to take on the Swedes at every opportunity.

Within minutes, Lozanovski crossed over the head of Graham Arnold and Joe Spiteri to find Milan Blagojevic coming in from the left wing the UTS Olympic defender lost control of the ball and couldn't time his shot.

Sweden had an opportunity in the 61st minute when Milan Ivanovic made a rare defensive error near halfway and the visitors rushed the box in numbers.

Niclas Alexandersson fired in a shot from the edge of the penalty area, but it careered harmlessly across the face of the goal.

Alexandersson found himself in a similar position soon after but this time his shot deflected off Robert Hooker into the side netting.



Graham Arnold: Put much pressure on Sweden in first half.

ERICSSON CUP

Newcastle Breakers
v
South Melbourne



**Friday,
March 1**
**BREAKRS
STADIUM**



NEWCASTLE	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(I) RES	(I) RC		
Craig Carter	G	20 (0)	0	2 (0)
Adam Fittock	G	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Adam Sanderson	D	11 (1)	0	1 (0)
Steve Hickman	D	19 (0)	0	6 (1)
Nick Johns	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ralph Maier	D	20 (0)	0	3 (0)
Glen Moore	D	8 (2)	0	2 (0)
Shane Pryce	D	8 (2)	0	4 (0)
Peter Ritchie	D	3 (0)	0	1 (0)
Andy Roberts	D	12 (0)	0	2 (0)
Glen Sprod	D	11 (3)	1	1 (0)
Darren Stewart	D	9 (0)	1	4 (0)
Gary Wilson	M	9 (0)	0	3 (0)
Craig Sharpley	M	17 (0)	0	2 (0)
Damian Brown	M	12 (4)	2	0 (0)
Troy Halpin	M	7 (3)	3	2 (0)
Scott Thomas	M	5 (6)	1	3 (0)
Jason Bennett	S	15 (1)	4	0 (0)
David Lowe	S	17 (3)	3	2 (0)
Harry James	S	3 (4)	1	0 (0)
Clayton Zane	S	13 (5)	3	3 (1)

Head to Head : Souths 4-2-1, Goals (16-8)
Newcastle at home: 1-2, Goals (4-7)

RECORD

NEWCASTLE

Record Score: 3-1 (H)
1991/92
LAST FIVE MATCHES
At home: 0-3-2

SOUTHS

Record Score: 4-1 (H) &
(A) 93/94
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 0-0-5

SOUTHS	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(I) RES	(I) RC		
Dean Anastasiadis	G	15 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Liliakis	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Petkovic	G	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Con Anthopoulos	D	13 (2)	0	3 (0)
Alan Davidson	D	7 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Duric	D	3 (2)	0	3 (0)
Steve Mangos	D	4 (3)	1	0 (0)
Kevin Muscat	D	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Nick Orlic	D	14 (4)	0	2 (0)
Jean Paul Knezevic	D	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Kuzmanovic	D	17 (0)	0	4 (1)
Nick Papadopoulos	D	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Valkanis	D	10 (1)	0	5 (0)
Paul Trimboli	M	17 (1)	7	1 (0)
Tansel Baser	M	8 (3)	0	1 (0)
Con Blatsis	M	9 (0)	1	3 (1)
Bill Damianos	M	13 (5)	2	1 (0)
Sasa Nikolic	M	5 (9)	0	2 (0)
Steve Panopoulos	M	14 (2)	4	2 (0)
Mike Petersen	M	19 (0)	0	5 (0)
Daniel Allsopp	S	6 (1)	1	0 (0)
Vaughan Cooney	S	18 (0)	4	1 (1)
Michael Curcija	S	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Ivan Kelic	S	14 (2)	7	1 (0)
Craig Lewis	S	3 (13)	1	4 (0)
Agim Sherifovski	S	11 (2)	1	2 (1)

* Orlic's stats include 12 full, 4 substitute appearances and 1 y c for UTS Olympic

ABSW TIPS

- (50) Alistair Russell: Souths
- (45) John Economos: Newcastle
- (60) Greg Blake: Draw
- (55) Con Stavros: Souths
- (42) Bob Brooks: Draw

Morwell Falcons
v
Canberra Cosmos



**Saturday,
March 2**
**MORWELL
FALCONS PK**



MORWELL	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(I) RES	(I) RC		
Jim Kourtis	G	18 (0)	0	0 (0)
Jason Dastey	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Claudio Canosa	D	18 (1)	1	7 (0)
David Craig	D	1 (5)	0	1 (0)
Sean Douglas	D	13 (0)	1	3 (0)
Alex Cummings	D	8 (4)	0	1 (0)
Justin Geri	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Scott Miller	D	18 (0)	1	4 (0)
Doug Marcina	D	20 (0)	0	2 (0)
John Waddell	D	19 (0)	1	3 (0)
James Alesi	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Sonny Sevin	M	19 (1)	1	0 (0)
Marc Stergiopoulos	M	8 (11)	1	4 (0)
Carlo Talladira *	M	5 (7)	0	0 (0)
Ernie Tapai	M	18 (0)	1	6 (1)
Zoran Todorovski	M	0 (6)	0	0 (0)
Brian Bothwell	S	18 (0)	4	4 (0)
Rob Despotovski	S	1 (5)	1	0 (0)
Michael Reda	S	12 (6)	2	3 (0)
Warren Spink	S	17 (0)	6	2 (0)
Carlo Villani	S	6 (4)	2	0 (0)

* Carlo Talladira's stats include 2 full and 7 substitute appearances for Adelaide City

Head to Head: Canberra 1-0-0, Goals (5-0)
Morwell at Home: N/A

RECORD

MORWELL

Record Score:
N/A
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 1-1-3

CANBERRA

Record Score: 5-0 (H)
1995/96
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 1-1-3

CANBERRA	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(I) RES	(I) RC		
Steve Mautone	G	17 (0)	0	1 (0)
Ben Harris	G	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Danny Milosevic	G	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Paul Dee	D	20 (0)	1	5 (0)
Stan Dukic	D	8 (4)	0	1 (0)
Peter Mazis	D	8 (0)	0	1 (0)
Richard Watson	D	12 (1)	0	1 (0)
Jason Dunn	D	18 (0)	2	3 (1)
Joe Gagetti	D	4 (0)	0	2 (0)
Paul Wade	D	19 (0)	11	2 (0)
Jim Baxter	M	5 (4)	0	1 (0)
Alex Castro	M	4 (0)	2	1 (0)
Gus Cerro	M	6 (0)	0	1 (0)
Norman Kelly	M	10 (0)	2	4 (0)
John Koch	M	14 (0)	0	2 (0)
Arsenije Popovich	M	3 (5)	1	1 (0)
Toplica Popovich	M	12 (1)	0	3 (0)
Willie Hastie	M	3 (1)	0	1 (0)
Paul McVitie	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Musitano	M	15 (1)	5	2 (1)
Lachlan Armstrong	M	12 (0)	4	3 (1)
Michael Garcia	M	10 (1)	0	0 (0)
Njegosh Popovich	M	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Tony Lemezina	S	6 (7)	2	1 (0)
Marko Perinovic	S	17 (0)	4	8 (0)

* Chris Slater's stats include 1 full and 2 substitute appearances for Brisbane.

ABSW TIPS

- (50) Alistair Russell: Draw
- (45) John Economos: Canberra
- (60) Greg Blake: Draw
- (55) Con Stavros: Canberra
- (42) Bob Brooks: Canberra

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Brisbane Strikers

v
UTS Olympic



**Saturday,
March 2**
**SUNCORP
STADIUM**



BRISBANE	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(I) RES	(I) RC		
Clint Bolton	G	21 (0)	0	0 (0)
Andrew Brayshaw	D	8 (10)	1	2 (1)
Glen Gwynne	D	8 (0)	0	2 (0)
Alan Hunter	D	18 (0)	1	1 (0)
Steve Jackson	D	7 (1)	0	2 (0)
Chris Zoricich	D	17 (2)	3	4 (1)
Craig Williams	D	8 (6)	1	2 (0)
Mark Battistin	D	15 (2)	2	4 (0)
Sean Cranney	M	16 (0)	3	2 (0)
Troy Cranney	M	21 (0)	0</	

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Sydney United

V

Adelaide City

Saturday,
March 2

**SYD. CROAT
SPT CENTRE**



SYD UTD	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES	(1) RC		
John Perosh	G	19 (0)	0	0 (0)
Crews	G	2	0	(0)
Mark Babic	D	18 (0)	0	2 (0)
Paul Bilokapic	D	18 (0)	1	5 (0)
Andrew Crews	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Velimir Kupresak	D	21 (0)	0	3 (0)
Richard Plesa	D	10 (4)	0	3 (0)
Tony Popovic	D	17 (0)	4	2 (0)
Mark Rudan	D	7 (7)	1	3 (0)
Robert Enes	M	19 (0)	0	4 (0)
Aytek Genc	M	14 (0)	1	4 (1)
Chad Gibson	M	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ante Moric	M	13 (0)	0	2 (1)
Jim Patikas	M	8 (0)	0	1 (0)
Robert Trajkovski	M	5 (2)	0	1 (0)
Robert Markovac	M	7 (6)	3	1 (0)
Dominic Usaj	M	2 (5)	0	0 (0)
James Aschner	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Sean Babic	S	5 (10)	4	3 (0)
Manis Lamond	S	4 (8)	3	1 (0)
Ante Milicic	S	21 (0)	5	2 (0)
David Zdrilic	S	20 (1)	4	(0)

Head to Head: Level 6-8-6, Goals (Ad City 25-23)

Syd Utd at home: 3-4-3, Goals (13-12)

RECORD

SYDNEY UTD

Record Score: 3-1 (H)
1993/94
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 3-0-2

ADEL CITY

Record Score: 3-0 (H)
1994/95
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 1-1-3

AD CITY	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES	(1) RC		
Jason Petkovic	G	20 (0)	0	0 (0)
Milan Ivanovic	D	19 (0)	0	3 (0)
Sasha Nedeljkovic	D	8 (3)	0	4 (1)
Alex Tobin	D	20 (0)	2	2 (0)
Brad Armour	D	18 (0)	1	6 (0)
Joel Marino	D	1 (1)	0	1 (0)
Mark Yates	D	16 (2)	0	3 (0)
Mark Brazzale *	M	5 (2)	0	0 (0)
Angelo Costanzo	M	5 (6)	0	0 (0)
Craig Foster	M	6 (0)	1	0 (0)
John Gibson	M	20 (0)	1	2 (0)
Goran Lozanovski	M	19 (0)	0	4 (0)
Dino Mennillo	M	6 (10)	1	2 (0)
Jamie Perin	M	13 (1)	0	3 (1)
Brad Hassell	S	18 (1)	8	0 (0)
Damian Mori	S	20 (0)	16	1 (0)
Joe Muller	S	8 (1)	3	1 (0)
Kosta Salapasidis	U	19	0	0 (0)

* Mark Brazzale's stats include 5 full and 1 substitute appearance for West Adelaide.

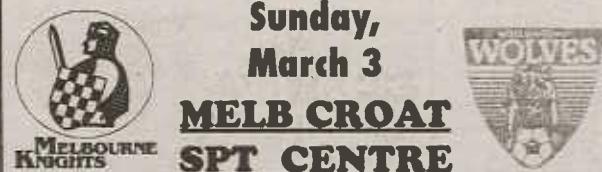
ABSW TIPS

- (50) Alistair Russell: Syd Utd
- (45) John Economos: Draw
- (60) Greg Blake: Draw
- (55) Con Stavros: Syd Utd
- (42) Bob Brooks: Syd Utd

Melbourne Knights

V

Wollongong City



Sunday,
March 3

**MELB CROAT
SPT CENTRE**



KNIGHTS

KNIGHTS	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES	(1) RC		
Frank Juric	G	20 (0)	0	1 (0)
Vinko Buljubasic	D	18 (0)	1	4 (0)
Zoran Markovski	D	7 (3)	0	2 (0)
David Cervinski	D	18 (0)	1	5 (0)
Fausto De Amicis	D	18 (0)	0	2 (0)
B Bacak	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Damien Grganovic	D	2 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ante Kovacevic	D	19 (0)	0	2 (0)
Andrew Marth	D	18 (0)	4	3 (1)
Lubo Lapsansky	M	19 (0)	2	5 (0)
Idriz Pelia	M	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Mark Silic	M	15 (0)	0	2 (0)
Josip Simunic	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Danny Tiatto	M	9 (11)	0	3 (0)
Damian Vojtek	M	5 (6)	1	0 (0)
Joe Bacak *	S	8 (7)	1	1 (0)
Ice Kutlesovski	S	3 (7)	2	0 (0)
John Markovski	S	10 (1)	1	4 (0)
Ollie Pondeljak	S	4 (3)	0	0 (0)
Joe Spiteri	S	17 (0)	4	6 (0)
Tom Pondeljak	U	8 (3)	4	0 (0)
Dragi Nastevski	U	3 (1)	0	1 (0)

* Bacak's stats include 5 full and 6 substitute appearances, 1 goal + 1 yellow card for Olympic.

Head to Head: Knights 9-0-8, Goals (17-18)

Knights at home: 7-0-2, Goals (12-3)

RECORD

MELB KNIGHTS

Record Score: 3-0 (H)
89/90
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 2-1-2

WOLVES

Record Score: 4-1 (H)
1988
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 0-1-4

WOLVES	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES	(1) RC		
Brett Hughes	G	20 (0)	0	2 (1)
Steve Angelov	G	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Martin Bourke	D	21 (0)	0	3 (0)
Matthew Dihm	D	5 (3)	0	0 (0)
Steve Forshaw	D	11 (1)	1	2 (1)
Bill Gjakovski	D	14 (2)	-1	3 (1)
Ian Pollari	D	4 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Jolevski	D	13 (3)	0	2 (1)
Richard Lloyd	D	12 (2)	0	1 (0)
Mike O'Shea	D	7 (0)	0	4 (0)
Joe Vrkic *	D	3 (1)	0	2 (0)
Paul Beltrame *	M	6 (3)	0	2 (0)
Mineo Bonetig	M	3 (8)	0	1 (0)
Matthew Borg	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Alvin Ceccoli	M	2 (2)	1	1 (0)
Claudio Cellini	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Stephen Laybutt	M	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Pedro Ricoy	M	16 (0)	0	4 (1)
Matt Horsley	M	19 (0)	0	1 (0)
Lupco Naumovski	M	17 (0)	2	3 (0)
Angelo Petratos	M	6 (10)	2	2 (1)
Mario Jermen	S	8 (4)	3	0 (0)
Colin Luff	S	4 (9)	1	0 (0)
Tony Perinich	S	21 (0)	7	2 (0)
Stuart McClaren	S	7 (2)	0	2 (0)
Rob Middleby	S	12 (2)	0	2 (2)

* Paul Beltrame's stats include 4 full and 3 substitute appearances, 2 y c for Marconi

* Joe Vrkic made 1 sub appearance for Syd Utd.

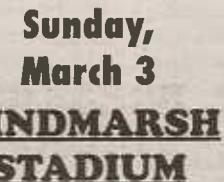
ABSW TIPS

- (50) Alistair Russell: Knights
- (45) John Economos: Knights
- (60) Greg Blake: Knights
- (55) Con Stavros: Knights
- (41) Bob Brooks: Knights

West Adelaide

V

Marconi Fairfield



**HINDMARSH
STADIUM**

WEST AD

WEST AD	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES	(1) RC		
Peter Blazincic	G	21 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Haniotis	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Robbie Hooker	D	19 (0)	3	2 (0)
Rechat				

NORTHERN DIVISION

BY PETER KONSTO

Sydney United moved within striking distance of the top spot on the Les Scheinflug Youth Cup ladder thanks to their gritty 2-0 away victory over front-runners, Marconi Fairfield at Marconi Stadium on Saturday.

No one expected anything other than a Marconi home victory but United simply wanted to win more desperately than the Stallions, fighting hard for any sort of possession and capitalising on the few chances that eventuated during the game.

Indeed, the theme of the match was one of a hard fought midfield battle that resulted in neither team establishing dominance nor a suitable rhythm from which to launch consistent and effective attacks.

The opener came from an innocuous corner that floated over innocently enough but once Marconi

goalkeeper, Les Pogliacomi, came out and failed to hold onto the ball, the ensuing goal-mouth scramble resulted in Mark Saric toe-poking the ball home after only eight minutes.

Marconi worked a great move from the centre of the park 10 minutes later with Nick Bosevski and Rob Cicek combining well. The move resulted in Cicek providing a perfect cross for Bosevski whose free, close-range downward header lacked power and went straight into the arms of John Perosh in the United goal.

As the half progressed, Marconi experienced a few defensive lapses that saw them fail on numerous occasions to clear effectively and cleanly.

One such lapse saw Pogliacomi stranded however the header on goal by Patrick Mustac was cleared off the line by defender, Buddy Farah four minutes before the break.

As the second half progressed, it seemed that the single goal was going to be enough for United as neither team seemed able to assert their authority over the other.

However, when United substitute, Alex Trpkovski was brought down in the box with only eight minutes remaining, the three points were made secure when Robbie Markovac converted the ensuing penalty at the second attempt and complete the 2-0 scoreline.

Despite the loss, Marconi retains a two point lead at the top from the AIS who keep second spot after an excellent 4-0 win over the in form ACT Academy.

Other big winners this round included the NSW ITC with their unexpected 10-2 demolition of Blacktown City and the QAS with a convincing 5-1 away victory over Parramatta Eagles.

GRAHAM ARNOLD COLTS CUP

ROUND 13

Bonnyrigg WE	3	Parramatta Eagles	2
Sydney United	0	Sutherland Sharks	3
Adamstown R'buds	1	Leichhardt Tigers	2
Central Coast	1	Illawarra Lions	3
Macarthur Rams	2	UTS Olympic	0
Bankstown City Lions	1	Warringah Dolphins	1
Rockdale City Suns	3	Canterbury Berries	1
Macarthur Rams	12	P W SD D L F A PTS	
Central Coast	13	2 0 2 23 12 28	
Illawarra Lions	11	6 4 0 31 25 26	
UTS Olympic	13	8 0 1 4 17 7 25	
Bonnyrigg WE	13	6 2 0 5 20 21 22	
Warringah Dolphin	13	5 3 0 5 21 16 21	
Parramatta Eagles	11	5 3 0 3 16 18 21	
Bankstown City	13	5 2 1 5 26 19 20	
Sydney United	13	4 4 0 5 19 17 20	
Rockdale City Sun	13	6 1 0 6 21 23 20	
Leichhardt Tigers	13	5 1 0 7 15 26 17	
Sutherland Sharks	12	4 1 0 7 20 22 14	
Canterbury Berrie	13	4 0 0 9 13 29 12	
Adamstown R'bud	13	1 1 0 11 14 34 5	

LES SCHEINFLUG YOUTH CUP

ROUND 20

Wollongong City	1	Newcastle Breakers	1
NSW ITC	10	Blacktown City	2
ACT Academy	0	AIS	4
Parramatta Eagles	1	Qld Academy of Sport	5
Marconi	0	Sydney United	2
		P W SD D L F A PTS	
Marconi Fairfield	20	15 0 1 4 64 16 46	
AIS	21	14 0 2 5 67 28 44	
Sydney United	20	13 0 0 7 40 25 39	
ACT Academy	21	12 0 2 7 40 39 38	
Wollongong City	21	11 0 3 7 46 40 36	
Qld Acad of Sport	19	9 0 1 9 50 33 28	
UTS Olympic	19	8 0 4 7 40 28 28	
Parramatta Eagles	21	7 0 5 8 36 36 27	
Newcastle Breaker	21	7 0 3 11 34 43 24	
Blacktown City	20	5 0 4 11 32 66 19	
NSW ITC	20	3 0 0 17 21 72 9	
St George	17	2 0 2 13 14 58 8	

NSW SUPER LEAGUE
LEICHARDT TIGERS 2
BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 1

Leichhardt Tigers hit visiting Blacktown City Demons with two early goals on Sunday and then held on, despite tremendous pressure, to run out winners by the odd goal.

John Crawley came in for the injured Dragan Popovic, for his first team debut in the Demons goal while Nathan Hall had his first start in first grade on the right side of midfield.

The Demons defence hesitated after just four minutes allowing Matthew

Zec to open Leichhardt's account.

Worse was to follow, for the Demons, five minutes later when Sacha Telisman, from an acute angle, increased the difference.

Blacktown moved forward and from a position out on the right, and on the goal-line, Jay Anderson managed to sneak in a goal. This was his first in Super League and came after 19 minutes.

This was the way the scoreline stayed despite attempts by both Leichhardt and Blacktown.

The second stanza opened with the Tigers trying to add

to their lead. Despite the incessant urgings of coach Tony Pezzano, who lived every moment of the game as though it was his last, they gradually lost control.

Anthony La Grazza put in a great curling shot which had too much on it to give Crawley any trouble.

Fifteen minutes in Antony Versi created a chance from the right. His lob went over the defence where Patrick Bradley won the ball and fed Anderson. The Demons goalscorer couldn't quite put it away.

Anthony Driene raided on the right continually for Blacktown. In the 64th he fired in a long rang shot which Frank Mikuletic watched go over the bar.

Mikuletic again saved the day for Leichhardt in the 75th from Bradley. The Leichhardt goalie was called into action once more three minutes into time added on. This save was outstanding. Anderson rocketed a shot to the custodian's left which somehow he reached at full stretch and pushed out for a corner.

Earlier Steve Berry had got on the end of a well weighted free kick. Although his header went over, it scraped the paint off the crossbar.

Leichhardt go ahead of Blacktown on the table by one point.

- Bob Brooks

Sutherland in a game the Coasties dominated.

In the first half Central Coast played according to the match plan and continually had Sutherland's defence stretched. They could easily have led 3-0 at half-time.

Coasties first chance came in the opening minutes when a well measured cross from Darren Northam was met by Andrew Ollier, who headed just wide.

But the constant pressure from the Coasties proved fruitful in the 15th minute when Northam again split the Sutherland defence with a pass to Damien Brown who took the goal well. This was his second in two games.

The Coasties continued to dominate possession in the first half and but for a series of good saves from Sutherland's goalkeeper could have led by more at the break.

Sutherland came back into the game in the second half and this time it was the Coasties keeper, Shane Woodhouse who made two great saves in as many minutes.

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 0
PARRAMATTA EAGLES 2

Parramatta Eagles rebounded from last week's shock home loss to prove too strong in their 2-0 win over Bonnyrigg White Eagles at the Serbian Centre on Sunday.

Bonnyrigg with two very impressive first up wins over Illawarra and Canterbury were expected to give the Eagles a tough time but were no match for the former National League team.

The 1-1 scoreline flattered

Parramatta into fourth place alongside Bonnyrigg on six points, just one win away from Bankstown who are the outright leaders.

Parramatta started off strongly with Mark Reveley netting the opening goal with only nine minutes on the clock, his strong header going in off the inside of the post.

Bonnyrigg were able to get back into the match and nearly had an equaliser when Marshall Soper was able to get onto a Jason Flynn cross, but his header was well saved by Jason Holmes.

With the match still very much in the balance, Parramatta made a strong claim for victory just minutes before half-time. Tom Haythornwaite was able to pounce on some hesitant defending in the box by Bonnyrigg and he made no mistake with his shot.

Bonnyrigg despite much effort were shut out the game in the second half as Parramatta played possession football and restricted the Bonnyrigg attack to half chances, mainly from long range efforts.

Bonnyrigg did however have a great chance to pull a goal back and put some pressure on the Eagles, when Jeff Suzor crossed to Milan Gajic who missed from in front of goal.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

4 —

Mark Hoenselaars (Bonnyrigg)

3 —

Malcolm Meilak (Parramatta)

Saso Petrovski (Bankstown)

ROUND 3 FIRST GRADE

Adamstown Rosebud	2	Canterbury Berries	2
St George Saints	0	Illawarra Lions	0
Bonnyrigg WE	0	Parramatta Eagles	2
Sutherland Sharks	1	Central Coast	1
Bankstown City Lions	1	Macarthur Rams	0
Leichhardt Tigers	2	Blacktown City	1
Warringah Dolphins	4	Rockdale City Suns	0

P	W	SD	D	L	F	APT
Bankstown City Lions	3	3 0 0 0 7 1 9				
Warringah Dolphins	3	2 0 1 0 6 1 7				
Adamstown R'buds	3	2 0 1 0 8 4 7				
Parramatta Eagles	3	2 0 0 1 6 1 6				
Bonnyrigg WE	3	2 0 0 1 8 5 6				
Leichhardt Tigers	3	2 0 0 1 4 5 6				
Sutherland Sharks	3	1 0 2 0 3 2 5				
Blacktown City	3	1 0 1 1 6 4 4				
Central Coast	3	0 0 2 1 4 5 2				
St George Saints	3	0 0 2 1 1 3 2				
Illawarra Lions	3	0 0 1 2 4 9 1				
Canterbury Berries	3	0 0 1 2 4 10 1				
Rockdale City Suns	3	0 0 1 2 4 11 1				
Macarthur Rams	3	0 0 0 3 0 4 0				

UNDER 21

Adamstown Rosebud	3	Canterbury Berries	2
St George Saints	4	Illawarra Lions	1
Bonnyrigg WE	1	Parramatta Eagles	4
Sutherland Sharks	3	Central Coast	0
Bankstown City Lions	1	Macarthur Rams	5
Leichhardt Tigers	1	Blacktown City	1
Warringah Dolphins	4	Rockdale City Suns	3

P	W	SD	D	L	F	APT

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TACKLE DIABETES



Victorian Premier League

**BOX HILL 1
ST ALBANS 0**

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL
A Spectacular goalkeeping display by Sean Keogh helped Box Hill Inter to their first win of the season, 1-0 over St Albans on Friday night.

Keogh, a signing from St Albans in the off season, denied his old side on several occasions with some magnificent reflex saves.

Steve Guscic scored the only goal of the game after 27 minutes when he headed in Adam Inglese's far post cross.

St Albans' task was never going to be easy after losing three players to injury during the game.

Skipper Mick Colina and Ivan Jolic both exited in the first half while keeper Marijan Vunderl had to be substituted by Lupce Acevski in the 49th minute.

Peter Petrakos had the chance to seal the game late on when he ran onto a through ball from Frank Pansino, Petrakos rounded Acevski but somehow managed to trip over with an open beckoning.

INTER: Keogh, Pansino, Gugulemi, Dal Ben (Chirico), Castro, Ingles, Roodhouse, Guscic, Tsakiris, Calle (Frezzini), Petrakos.

SAINTS: Vunderl (Acevski), S. Rados, Jolic (Pelja), I. Colina, Mikulic, M. Colina (Pelja), Milanovic, Gagula, Markovac, Magdic, Grganovic.

REFEREE: Jim Markovski. VOTES: 3-Keogh (Inter), 2-Pansino (Inter), 1-Magdic (Saints).

**BULLEEN 2
ALBION 0**

BY MICHAEL MALAKONAS
Bulleen Lions produced a solid workman-like performance to easily overcome an under strength Albion Redsox combination.

The Game was effectively over as a contest as early as the 27th minute after Bulleen went to a 2-0 lead.

The Lions were never really put under pressure in the backline where Anthony Grbac and Frank Valentic were in total control.

Bulleen took the lead in the 22nd minute through a classy goal from Dale White. White received a good pass from Valentic on the left hand side. His lighting turn and great left foot shot put the ball in the back of the net from 18 metres.

The Lions second goal was created by some excellent work from Gerry McAleer who intercepted the ball from a slack Albion attempt to clear from defence. McAleer then put Pat Giaccherini in the clear who easily putting his shot away.

Bulleen's outstanding players were White who gave them a great focal point up front, former young Socceroo Robert Stojevski with his dominating runs and presence on the left flank and McAleer with a good grafty performance in midfield.

TABLE

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melb. Warriors	6	6	0	0	23	3	18
SUNS. GEORGIES	6	6	0	0	13	2	18
ALTONA MAGIC	6	5	0	1	11	6	15
BENT. GREENS	6	4	0	2	9	6	12
THOMAST. ZEBRAS	6	3	2	1	8	6	11
NT. GEE. WARRIORS	6	3	1	2	8	8	10
BULLEEN LIONS	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
GR. GULLY CAV.	6	1	3	2	9	11	6
SPR CITY VALES	6	2	0	4	10	15	6
ST ALB. SAINTS	6	1	1	4	6	9	4
BOX HILL INTER	6	1	1	4	5	12	4
PT MELB. SHARKS	6	0	3	3	7	14	3
FAWKNER BLUES	6	0	2	4	6	12	2
ALBION REDSOXS	6	0	1	5	1	13	1

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
THOMAST. ZEBRAS	6	5	0	1	22	6	15
BENT. GREENS	6	5	0	1	19	10	15
BULLEEN LIONS	6	5	0	1	15	8	15
Melb. Warriors	6	4	0	2	22	11	12
PT. MELB. SHARKS	6	3	1	2	11	5	10
SPR. CITY VALES	5	3	0	3	20	13	9
ALBION REDSOXS	6	3	0	3	13	18	9
BOX HILL INTER	6	2	2	2	7	9	8
SUNS. GEORGIES	6	2	1	3	8	12	7
FAWKNER BLUES	6	2	1	3	7	15	7
GR. GULLY CAVAL.	6	1	2	3	10	10	5
ST ALB. SAINTS	6	0	4	2	3	7	4
ALTONA MAGIC	6	1	1	4	10	19	4
NT. GEE. WARRIORS	6	0	0	6	3	27	0

No Premier League Fixtures Due To Dockerty Cup Round 1

ROUND 6 RESULTS

Box Hill Inter 1 (Guscic) St Albans Saints 0

Fawkner Blues 1 (Vassiliadis)

Melbourne Warriors 3 (Vlahos, Karapatsos 2)

Altona Magic 2 (Rusmir 2)
Springvale City Vales 1 (Lettieri)

Bulleen Lions 2 (White, Giaccherini)
Albion Redsox 0

Sunshine Georgies 2 (Cassar 2)
Port Melbourne Sharks 1 (Chalmers)

Green Gully Cavaliers 1 (Azzopardi) Bentleigh Greens 3 (Micheil, Todorovski, Charalambous)

Thomastown Zebras 1 (Zinni)
North Geelong Warriors 0

LEADING GOALSCORERS

12 — Despotovski (Melbourne)

7 — Nilo (Sunshine)

6 — Tsolakis (Melbourne)

5 — D. Grella (Springvale)

4 — White (Bulleen)

3 — Ujgunovski (Fawkner)

Fitzpatrick (North Geelong)

Cassar (Sunshine)

Rusmir (Altona)

Zinni (Thomastown)

Vlahos (Melbourne)

LIONS: Olver, Valentic, Stojevski, White (Di Iorio), Slifkas, Sonsini, McAleer, Giacherini, Goutzioulis, Grbac, Liparoti.

REDSOX: Brian, Grimauad, L. Osman, Donnelly, Collins, McGeachy, Pavlinusic (Hulusi), Kaya, Kostovski, Gurpinar, E. Osman.

REFEREE: Carlo Graser.

VOTES: 3-Stojevski (Lions), 2-White (Lions), 1-McAleer (Lions).

GREEN GULLY 1 BENTLEIGH 3

BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG

Bentleigh Greens recorded a seemingly convincing 3-1 win over Green Gully, but have veteran 39-year-old goalkeeper, Peter Laumets, largely to thank for the victory.

With Gully having much of the play in the opening stanza, they were stunned in the shadows of half-time when Andy Charalambous opened the scoring.

For 20 minutes after the break the Cavaliers threatened to equalise, but they were constantly denied by the brilliant work of Laumets, who turned back the clock with his masterful performance.

A Gully handling error enabled Ike Alagiozidis to carry the ball 40 metres on

the rebound, before off loading to Harry Micheil, who made no mistake.

Colin Azzopardi gave the Cavaliers some hope with a goal that resulted from Laumets' only mistake of the evening, but Zoran Todorovski put the result beyond doubt with 10 minutes remaining.

CAVALIERS: Vella, Spiteri, Ketsakidis (Cherutti), Douglas, Azzopardi, Crodden, Scoble, Brown (Markovski), Suric, Neceski (Genovesi), Babic.

GREENS: Laumets, Drakos, Micheil, Crivari, Kourkoutzelos,

Theoharous, Todorovski, Alagiozidis, Lutton (Kakos), Kotsopoulos, Charalambous.

REFEREE: Juergen Annuss.

VOTES: 3-Laumets (Greens), 2-Alagiozidis (Greens), 1-Azzopardi (Cavs).

FAWKNER 1 MELBOURNE 3

BY NICHOLAS TZAFERIS

Enterprising Warrior defender, Tom Karapatsos, saved his side from a draw by expertly netting two late goals in the Sunday clash against Fawkner.

Karapatsos, fast emerging as one of the leagues champion full-

backs, scored identical goals in the 83rd and 90th minutes, shooting from an angle after receiving incisive Bobby Despotovski passes.

Fawkner did not deserve to lose the game but discovered that the Warriors are capable of turning it on at crucial moments, leaving their victims pondering what went wrong.

A typically opportunist strike by former young Socceroo Andrew Vlahos, had separated the sides at the break before Eric Vassiliadis stunned his former side early in the second-half with a scrambled goal.

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(Updated by 6.30pm each Sunday evening)

RECORDED RESULTS SERVICE

0055 38887

SUNDAY

MATCH RESULTS

SERVICE

◆ Premier League

◆ State League Div. 1

◆ Provisional

League Divisions 4&5

1 to 3

(Updated by 6.30pm each Saturday evening)

0055 38878

SATURDAY

MATCH RESULTS

SERVICE

◆ Premier League

◆ State League

Divisions

1 to 3

(Updated by 6.30pm each Saturday

DOUBLE DIGIT

Sharing ten puts Breakers

BY GREG BLAKE

Amid-season Friday night clash at Newcastle's Breakers Stadium is hardly the time or place to expect a game for the ages.

Yet when they run the highlight reels of season 1995/96 one very special game will stand out among the almost 200 played, as will the story of the dramatic 90 minutes will live on in the annals of the Ericsson Cup.

The lowly Newcastle Breakers and still humble Canberra Cosmos racked up the records in the recent Round 20 stunner, a game which is a 1000-1 chance of ever happening anyway.

As for the records, the league new boys from Canberra produced the biggest comeback for a result in two decades of Ericsson Cup history by coming from 4-0 down to draw 5-5 in on that remarkable Friday night.

And the 5-5 draw was also the highest score draw in league history, beating a 4-4 classic between Marconi and Adelaide City at Marconi Stadium way back in 1979.

While the aggregate 10 goals scored wasn't a record, the scoreline goes down in league history as only the third time in 3,976 Ericsson Cup games played since opening day 1977 that a match has produced a double-digit total.

Breakers coach John Kosmina scowled and probably hated every one of the final 30 minutes of the game and his Canberra counterpart Mike Lyons produced the understatement of the season at game's end.

The goalkeepers at either end were probably near to tears and neither side could afford too much back-slapping for a performance which was mistake-riddled.

But, for the fans — unless you're Newcastle fanatic — it was simply a footballing fiesta, a goalscoring bonanza and a thriller to boot.

For the record, Newcastle, sparked by a Troy Halpin hat-trick, led 4-0 inside 50 minutes before a remarkable Paul Wade-

inspired Cosmos comeback.

The veteran Wade grabbed a pair as Canberra edged ever closer and finally closed it out at 5-5 when Jason Dunn snapped home a dramatic equaliser with around five minutes remaining on the clock.

Breakers coach John Kosmina was fuming, saying his team simply stopped playing.

"Diabolical defending and no brains," was Kosmina's terse summary.

"I tried to warn them at half-time that it wasn't finished but of course they didn't listen."

Personally, I thought Lyons' comments were as classical as the game itself.

"At four down, I'd have settled for a draw," he said.

"But in the end I was disappointed that we didn't win it."

As for the players, they

can at least be safe in the knowledge that their contribution will be long remembered.

The 10-goal tally joins just two other Ericsson Cup matches from the 3976 home and away games played to have produced such a whopping goal aggregate.

GUN BATTLES

The biggest single season shoot-outs



<u>GOAL</u>		<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>BETWEEN</u>	<u>NO. OF</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>	<u>CLUBS</u>		
<u>2 CLUBS</u>	<u>IN SINGLE</u>			<u>CLASHES</u>	<u>GOALS</u>			
<u>SEASON</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>PER</u>	<u>CLUBS</u>
22	1984	5	4.4	Marconi Fairfield and Apia Leichhardt				
17	1977	2	8.5	Adelaide City and Mooroolbark				
17	1984	5	3.4	UTS Olympic and Sydney City				
16	1992/93	3	5.3	Marconi Fairfield and Adelaide City				
16	1991/91	4	4.0	South Melbourne and Adelaide City				
16	1993/94	4	4.0	UTS Olympic and Marconi Fairfield				
16	1984	5	3.2	Apia Leichhardt and UTS Olympic				
15	1995/96	2*	7.5	Newcastle Breakers and Canberra Cosmos				
15	1995/96	2*	7.5	Adelaide City and Brisbane Strikers				
15	1980	2	7.5	Marconi Fairfield and Blacktown City				
15	1984	4	3.8	Melbourne Zebras and Heidelberg United				
14	1990/91	3	4.7	Marconi Fairfield and Parramatta Eagles				
14	1991/92	2	7.0	South Melbourne and Apia Leichhardt				

Includes only games played to in the championship (ie. home and away or finals games) in one individual season schedule.

Note — 1984 was the only previous season when clubs have met more than twice during the regular season. In 1984 the league was split into two divisions of 12 teams, with several league rounds scheduled as intra or inter-conference games determined on the basis of current league placings. Some teams met four times in regular season play and again in the finals.

* Denotes at least one game still to come in season.

DAZZLERS

and Cosmos in elite company

The all-time heavyweight is still the 13 goal total produced in 1977, when Adelaide City belted Mooroolbark at Olympic Sports Field.

The only other time in league history when there has been a 10 goal game was in 1990/91, when South Melbourne rup-

tured hapless Wollongong Macedonia 7-3 at Middle Park.

Even nine-goal games are a rarity, with the recent Breakers — Cosmos clash only the third time nine or more have been scored in one game since the league went to a summer schedule.

The other game also involved Wollongong Mac, when they visited the Melbourne Knights in that 1990/91 season and found themselves on the end of an 8-1 drubbing.

In all, only 96 of the 3976 Ericsson Cup home and away games played to the end of round 20 this

season have produced a seven goal or better aggregate and only 33 have gone to eight shared goals or better.

The chances of a 10 goal or more game are currently running at about 1324-1, so we should relish them when they occur.

Remembering that Canberra and Newcastle shared five goals in a 3-2 result earlier this season, the two teams have set themselves up for a crack at another league record when they clash again in the extended third portion of this year's league schedule.

In what is developing into an extraordinary season for Ericsson Cup records, these two sides, along with the Brisbane Strikers and Adelaide City have a decent chance of getting close to the single season record of goals shared in clashes between two clubs.

The two Brisbane v Adelaide City games and two Newcastle v Canberra games this season have each produced a total of 15 goals, just seven less than the all-time record of 22, set over five clashes between Marconi and Apia in 1984.

A repeat of the gun-battles we've seen between these four clubs already this year could re-write the history books altogether, although the record over two games in a season might never be broken.

That is still held by Adelaide City and their helpless victims of 1977, Melbourne-based Mooroolbark.

The Zebras' 10-3 flogging was iced by a 3-1 win in Melbourne that same year, with that 17 goal aggregate and 8.5 goals per game average a big ask and not something we might wish on a coach with blood pressure problems.

Another one for the obscure records book is the effort of the South Melbourne team of 1991/92.

The Blues of that era featured in more high-scoring games in one season than any other Ericsson Cup history, with six of its matches that year going to five goals or more.

Included in the results were a 7-1 win over West Adelaide, a 6-1 victory over Apia and a 5-2 loss against Apia in the return game.

GOALS & MORE GOALS

The Ericsson Cup's all-time goal-fests

SINGLE GAME GOAL

AGGREGATE

SEASON

ROUND

RESULT

13	1977	23	Adelaide City 10 — Mooroolbark 3
10	1990/91	17	South Melbourne 7 — Wollongong Mac 3
10	1995/96	20	Newcastle Breakers 5 — Canberra Cosmos 5
9	1977	12	Heidelberg United 1 — Marconi Fairfield 8
9	1980	2	Marconi Fairfield 9 — Blacktown City 0
9	1981	20	Sydney City 5 — UTS Olympic 4
9	1983	10	Marconi Fairfield 5 — Wollongong City 4
9	1983	13	Apia Leichhardt 7 — Brisbane Lions 2
9	1984	6	Sydney City 8 — Newcastle Rosebud 1
9	1985	11	Melbourne Zebras 5 — Brisbane City 4
9	1988	7	South Melbourne 5 — Apia Leichhardt 4
9	1990/91	25	Melbourne Knights 8 — Wollongong Mac 1

Figures include all Ericsson Cup league games (ie. excluding top 4/5, cup and finals games) played from opening day in 1977 up to and including all matches played on February 18, 1996. Home club noted first.

Note — No Ericsson Cup finals match has produced a none goal or better goal aggregate.

HOW OFTEN?

The 1000-1 shot at Breakers Stadium

NO. OF TIMES

SINGLE

GAME GOAL

ERICSSON CUP

AGGREGATE

HISTORY

NUMBER OF

GOALS

FREQUENCY OF GOAL

TOTALS IN

SINGLE GAME

13	1	13 OR MORE
12	0	12 OR MORE
11	0	11 OR MORE
10	2	10 OR MORE
9	9	9 OR MORE
8	21	8 OR MORE
7	63	7 OR MORE

EVERY 3976 GAMES
EVERY 3976 GAMES
EVERY 3976 GAMES
EVERY 1325 GAMES
EVERY 331 GAMES
EVERY 173 GAMES
EVERY 41 GAMES

Figures include all Ericsson Cup league games (ie. excluding top 4/5, cup and finals games) played from opening day in 1977 up to and including all matches played on February 18, 1996.

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Slater and Arnold bring home good and bad news

BY COLE HITCHCOCK
OF AAP

Socceroo stars Robbie Slater and Graham Arnold believe topline Australian players will struggle to secure lucrative European contracts once transfer fees are abolished.

The pair returned from Europe for the two match series against Sweden, after Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson enforced FIFA laws and ordered them back home from their clubs.

Slater revealed his recall to the national team was likely to cost him his place in West Ham's side. Neither will receive match payments from the three games they will miss during the Swedish series.

They expressed concerns that they and other Australians currently in Europe could be the last crop of locally-grown players to sign with the world's biggest clubs once players completing contracts are considered "free" agents.

"It's going to be much more difficult for Australian players to get to Europe because they will be able to get a player in Europe for free now," Arnold said. "The flow of Australians to Europe is nearly over."

Slater said the abolition of transfer fees would "revolutionise" the game in Europe where millions of



Robbie Slater: Two and a half years since last he wore the green and gold in Australia.

dollars in transfer fees are exchanged by clubs to secure players.

Fewer Australians in Europe would mean fewer opportunities for the best to

play in the elite competitions but it might make national coach Eddie Thomson's job easier.

Slater and Arnold agreed that Australia was rarely able

to put its best side on the field. It has been two and a half years since Slater and Arnold last played for the Socceroos in Australia.

"The hardest thing is getting all our players back," Slater said.

"We only saw it really in the last World Cup campaign. We've got some world class players now. We should be looking to get a very good side together."

"The hardest part is the travelling and our clubs are obviously not happy with it either."

Arnold said he sympathised with young players such as Ned Zelic who don't or aren't allowed to return to play for their country.

"In my position there's no problem because I've been at the club for six years now but I can understand the younger players not wanting to come back."

A solution to the problem is the Socceroos playing more games in Europe, they said.

Players in Europe can go and play for their country's because it's only a small hop. For us it's two days to get home," said Slater.

Arnold will go from playing on ice and snow in Holland with NAC Breda to 30 degree temperatures against Sweden while Slater has just endured England's big freeze.

side or goal line fencing then the watch stops and is not restarted until the ball is about to go back into play.

All of these points result in the duration of the game going beyond ninety minutes. However the application of some common sense thinking makes the players, coaches, spectators and the media realise that actual playing time will increase. By extension, the more activity on the field, the more chance of goals.

The team coach will have to ensure that players are trained for 100 minutes as opposed to 90. Spectators must be aware of the changes and realise that games will no longer kick off at 3pm and finish by twenty to five for example.

Transport companies and police on point duty will have to adjust their timetables for the new era. The homeward throng will be later than it used to be.

The media and the statisticians will need to make allowance for activity in the time-added-on period.

Goals, cautions, send offs or other events will take place in this additional period. However the duration of a game is still, "two equal periods of 45 minutes."

The reporter will have to become smarter. If a goal is scored three minutes after the end of ninety minutes, and the referee adds on five minutes, then the time of the successful strike was 88 minutes for the record.

However in the writers report it can be said, "the goal was scored three minutes into stoppage time."

In other words it will be necessary to take account of what additional time the referee allows and then to adjust all significant events back from ninety minutes. This is going to be a challenge for writers and readers alike.

90 MINUTES – NO MORE

BY BOB BROOKS

You'll have to get used to a game of soccer running more than ninety minutes, on the clock, due to some radical changes introduced by FIFA.

Already games in the Ericsson Cup have had up to thirteen minutes added during this season. The same will apply to all games at senior level and eventually right through the whole game.

It is necessary to go to 1990 and the World Cup in Italy in order to fully understand what is happening.

On examination of actual playing time by FIFA, it was found that spectators were being short changed. Instead of 90 minutes play was reduced to little more than two thirds, on average, in all games.

The first change to address this was introduction of the no back pass instruction. This has resulted in more attacking play and a rise in the average of goals scored.

However, on its own, this measure did not meet the total requirements. It was necessary to devise some additional instructions. These have been contained within the objective of, "maximisation of effective playing time".

Match officials, ie referees and linesmen (or should that be 'match assistants') have been given these guidelines and are implementing them.

Time added on is at the discretion of the referee. The game will benefit, the spectacle will be greater but we all have to adjust our time pieces for the new era.

Maximisation of effective playing time means that the referee must stop the match watch for injury, substitution, setting up walls, cautions and send offs and if the ball is out of play for extended periods.

On the last point, if the ball goes over the



NZ APPOINT PART-TIME COACH

Soccer NZ has a new part-time coach for the All Whites national team, as well as a new full-time director of coaching.

SNZ named Keith Pritchett (Waitakere City) as part-time coach for the All Whites. He was previously an assistant to NZ team coach Bobby Clark, who has resigned and is to coach in the United States.

Joe McGrath, currently national director of coaching for Ireland, has been appointed to a similar job in NZ for the next four years.

He will be responsible for the overall philosophy and development of the game in NZ, as well as player development and coach training. McGrath replaces Allan Jones, who has a new coaching job in Qatar.

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Glory coach to go Ericsson Cup shopping



BY RICHARD KREIDER
Perth Glory coach Gary Marocchi is making a lightning trip to the eastern States this weekend, in an effort to bolster his squad for the 1996/97 season.

On Saturday March 2, Marocchi's itinerary begins in Melbourne with the Morwell Falcons v Canberra Cosmos clash, then he will travel to New South Wales to see Sydney United take on Adelaide City at the Croatian Sports Centre on Sunday.

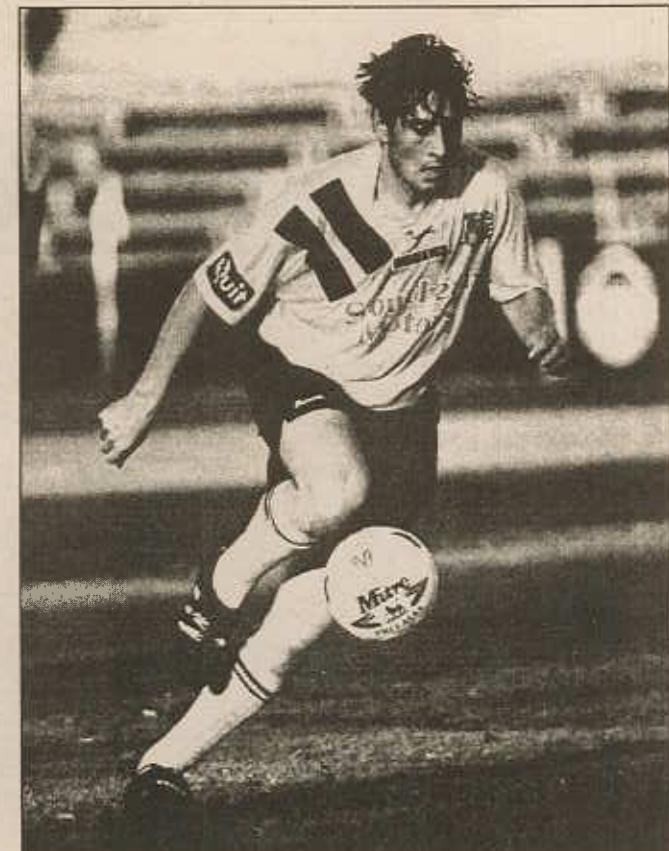
In the morning he will be making a television appearance on the SBS program 'On the Ball'.

"I am also hoping to take in a state league fixture while I'm there but it depends on what time I have up my sleeve," said Marocchi.

Slobodan Despotovski could be the State League target since the WA striker has scored over a dozen goals in five matches for Heidelberg.

"I'm looking for both a striker and a sweeper, especially youngsters, but I'm open to offers from any player that is interested in heading West," he said.

More information can be obtained by ringing the Perth office on 015 385-579.



Slobodan Despotovski: 12 goals in five matches in the Victorian Premier League.

Schoolboys undefeated on tour

The Australian Secondary Schools Soccer Association Boys team returned recently undefeated from their 10-day/six-match tour of Singapore and Malaysia.

Four internationals were contested. A three-match series against the Malaysian Under 19 team resulted in a series win to the Aussie team.

Before departure from Australia, the first match against Malaysia was played as a curtain-raiser to the UTS Olympic-Wollongong Johnnie Walker Cup match on January 14 and resulted in a 1-0 win with Carlos Gonzalez scoring the winner.

Two further matches were played in Malaysia, both resulting in exciting draws, 0-0 and 2-2 (Adam Daly and Lachlan Campbell scoring).

The other international was against the Singapore Under 19 team resulting in a 3-1 win after goals by Steve Richards, Kain Rastall and Kevin Griffiths.

Other matches resulted in a clean sweep against Singapore league (S-League) teams Singapore Armed Services (3-1 — Kain Rastall, Pedro Stefanidakis and Lachlan Campbell) and Balestier United (1-0 — Brett Patterson) and Malaysian league (M-League) side Negeri Sembilan (5-1 — Adam Daly 2, Carlos Gonzalez 2 and Kevin Griffiths).

Player of the tour was Ben Willard who plays for UTS Olympic closely followed by Victorian player Tony Lettieri.



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS SQUAD AT NATIONAL STADIUM, KUALA LUMPUR

BACK ROW (Left to Right): R. Pratt (Asst Coach), R. Beazley (Physio), A. Daly, M. Racker, D. Beattie, P. Munsie, C. Gonzalez, K. Griffiths, C. James (Tour Leader), J. Lavecki. **FRONT ROW:** L. Campbell, B. Patterson, T. Lettieri, K. Rastall, B. Willard, P. Stefanidakis, D. Rogers, C. Alvarez, M. Sevares, S. Richards.

Lettieri.

The team was captained by NSW player Mark Racker and vice-captain was ACT Academy of Sport captain Steve Richards.

A two-match series against the New Zealand Schools team is being planned for early July 1996. Both matches will be played in Sydney, July 9 at Valentine Park 2.30pm kick-off, the following day at Seymour Shaw Park 7.30pm kick-off.

PREVIOUS OVERSEAS TOURS

In 1974 the Australian Secondary Schools Association organised a series of matches with the

Under 15 English schools FA which visited Australia.

The Association's first overseas tour was to Canada and the USA in August of 1978, organised by Bob Quimby, Jack Dodd and Bill Turner.

The team contained many players that established themselves as a Socceroos and NSL stars: Yankos, Raskopoulos, Katholos, Krnecic, Pezzano etc.

In 1979 the Select Squad played the curtain raiser against the NSW Youth team before Australia v New York Cosmos with Pele at the SCG.

International tours recommenced in 1985 when Chris James (NSW) and

Chapman Bonner (Qld) took the Boys squad to the United Kingdom for historic games against England (0-1) and Scotland (2-1).

The New Zealand tour followed in 1986 culminating with a 1-0 win over the Kiwis at Mount Smart Stadium.

In 1987 the boys toured Hong Kong and China after the titles in Perth. The Boys then toured the USA, United Kingdom, and Republic of Ireland in 1988/89 playing Internationals against England (3-1), Wales (0-1), Northern Ireland (1-1) and the Republic of Ireland (1-0).

This tour showcased the emerging talents of Vidmar, Seal, Talladira and Maloney among others.

Further tours have been conducted to:

1989/90	USA
1990/91	South East Asia
1991/92	United Kingdom Republic of Ireland
1992/93	New Zealand
1993/94	Hong Kong, China, Taipei
1994/95	Uruguay, Argentina, Chile

1995 BOYS TEAM PLAYER PROFILES

DAMIEN BEATTIE

Goalkeeper from Loyola College, Victoria. Represented Victoria at Under 14 and 15 level and played for Victorian Institute of Sport.

STEVE RICHARDS

Defender or midfielder from

Erindale College, ACT. Represented ACT at Under 19 level and a member of the 1994/95 Australian Schools team.

MAXI SEVARES

Defender/midfielder from Marcellin College, NSW. Plays for UTS Olympic in the NSL. Nickname "Maxi".

BEN WILLARD

Defender from Penrith High, NSW. Played for Nepean Association and currently for UTS Olympic. Nickname "Bennie".

TONY LETTIERI

Midfielder from Salesian College, Victoria. Played for Victoria at Under 12, 14 and 15 levels. Nickname "Tizza".

DAMIAN ROGERS

Midfielder from Nudgee College, Queensland. Represented Queensland at Under 15 level. Nickname "Buckie".

MARK RACKER

Midfielder from Greystanes High, NSW. Currently plays for UTS Olympic. Nickname "Rack".

KAIN RASTALL

Midfielder from Kingswood High, NSW. Played for NSW Academy of Sport. Plays for UTS Olympic in the NSL. Nickname "Rast".

ADAM DALY

Midfielder from Lowood High, Queensland. Represented Queensland at Under 17 level and currently plays for Coalstars. Nickname "Pearl".

MARK ROBERTSON

Midfielder from Randwick Boys High, NSW. Under 20 and 23 NSW player and in current Young Socceroos



trial-on squad. Nickname "Robbie".

CARLOS GONZALEZ

Striker from Christian Brothers, Lewisham, NSW. Current NSW Under 21 player and represented NSW at Under 15s and 16s. Nickname "Carly".

CRISTIAN ALVAREZ

Midfielder from John Curtin, WA. Represented Western Australia at Under 18s and 21s level.

LACHLAN CAMPBELL

Midfielder from Marsden College, SA. Plays for Para Hills in NYSL and represented SA in 1994 & 1995 schools teams. Nickname "Lochie".

PEDRO STEFANIDAKIS

Midfielder from Casuarina College, NT. Represented NT at last four national titles (1992-95). Nickname "Steffi".

KEVIN GRIFFITHS

Midfielder from Cyril Jackson Senior High, WA. Represented WA at Under 13-15 level and 1994 Schoolboys.

PETER MUNSIE

Goalkeeper from Winmalee High, NSW. Plays for Parramatta Eagles in the NYSL.

ENGLAND WILL STRUGGLE

Welcome to Australia Geoff, how many times have you actually ventured down under?

Just the once, in 1973 with Stoke City when we travelled to Perth, Adelaide, Sydney and New Zealand.

My recollections of Australia are very favourable although most of the time you only get to see airports, pitches and the odd bar!

What is your impression of Australian soccer?

You have a lot of talent, the amount of Aussies playing around the world is testimony to that.

But they need to get there when they are sixteen or seventeen years of age. I believe anyone over 20 has left it too late. Chris Coyne at West Ham is a good example, where they can nurture his talent at a younger age.

For Stan Lazaridis however, unless he is exceptional it may be too late for him to play in the West Ham first team.

Do you think there are too many "foreigners" playing in English football?

No, I think it's very healthy for our game, only if we are getting the good and young talent like Ginola at Newcastle, Cantona at



England's 1966 World Cup hero Geoff Hurst visited Australia last month on a promotional tour.

He spoke to ABSW's Richard Kreider while in Perth.

United, Juninho at Middlesbrough and now Asprilla of Colombia who was sensational in a friendly international against England. He is now going to Newcastle.

Looking at the game in England over the last thirty years, do you think it has changed for the better?

No I don't think so, we are not producing enough top quality, international players. This is evident when you see them alongside the imported players.

What is your impression of Diego Maradona?

You have to consider him as one of the top half-dozen players of all time. Unfortunately, I am disappointed with the other aspect of his career, namely his temper and drugs. I wouldn't class him as a true professional alongside Franz Beckenbauer, Bobby Moore, Johan Cruyff and Bobby

Moore, but he was still an absolutely brilliant player.

Are England going to win the European Championship?

No. I think all we can hope for is to get to the semi-finals. Anything over that will be a tremendous bonus. If we don't make the semi's, it'll be a pretty poor effort.

As I said earlier, I just feel we are not producing enough world class players as we had in '66. And there is not enough emphasis on the national team as there should be, it seems the league competition has a higher priority. Unless the structure changes by giving the national manager opportunities to be more successful, then I think we will always struggle. That goes for France '98 too.

Will we ever see another Bobby Moore?

No way. I had the great privilege of playing alongside him at Middlesbrough and now Asprilla of Colombia who was sensational in a friendly international against England. He is now going to Newcastle.

alongside him for fifteen years at West Ham and England.

He was a world class sweeper and I don't think we will ever see the likes of him again. He was voted the best player of the '66 World Cup, amongst some exceptional talent in that tournament. That just goes to show what a high calibre player he was. He was a great reader of the game, a modest professional a wonderful fellow and it is very sad that he is no longer with us.

Do you think he could handle the fast game as it is today?

Yes, it is a little faster but not that harder today. For a striker's point of view, they have changed the rules significantly by stopping the tackle from behind and the offside law where if you are level you are on-side. The differences are notable in that we are seeing a lot of goals in the Premier League. There is no question I'd have

scored as many if not more goals playing in the present system than I did in my heyday when it was a lot more violent. It looks faster because we use small areas of the pitch.

When you play the continentals who use the whole of the pitch, they just look better. It is just the way we play the game.

The controversy over your second and England's third goal in the '66 World Cup is still well and truly alive. Should it be laid to rest or don't you mind it being pub talk?

There have recently been studies done in the UK by scientists from Oxford, and I have been inundated with interviews. My own view is it is quite remarkable that it is still doing the rounds, but I hope people dispute it every year - it's still good for me!

Will West Ham United ever win the league championship?

I very much doubt it even more so today. The Premier League is about the big clubs with the big money who buy the best players, and sadly we are not that category. There is only about half-a-dozen clubs who have the money and the power. I think it will be Newcastle for the league this time.



Bobby Moore: His like will never be produced in England again, says Hurst.

NSW ITC coach takes promotion to Queensland



Tony Walmsley: Enjoyed his term in NSW, leaving is difficult.

AUSTRALIAN SELECT

v

SYDNEY COSMOS

5pm Wednesday 28th February
Sydney Football Stadium

AUSTRALIA
White/Green

1.	Belinda Barter
2.	Sarah Cooper
3.	Tracie McGovern
4.	Kristyn Swaffer
5.	Bridgette Starr
6.	Lizzy Clayton
7.	Sacha Wainwright
8.	Sarah Fitzgerald
9.	Karly Puma
10.	Joanne Peters
11.	Michelle Watson
12.	Katrina Boyd
14.	Sharon Black
15.	Kristy Moore
16.	Shelley Youman

Coach: Tom Sermann

SYDNEY COSMOS
Green/Blue

1.	Claire Nichols
2.	Lisa Warrener
3.	Stephanie Kite
4.	Julie Murray (c)
5.	Bria Sargent
6.	Amy Tredinnick
7.	Kaylene Janssen
8.	Melissa Denning
9.	Michelle Prouten
10.	Jordie Blank
11.	Lisa Price
12.	Marlene Widders
13.	Ourania Amvrazis
14.	Ann Maree Csuka
15.	Rosa Schiraldi
16.	Leisl Stimpson
17.	Dene Slater
18.	Denie Pentecost
19.	Debra Cunningham
20.	Melissa McKendry

Coach: Gerschwin Lei

NSW's dynamic ITC coach Tony Walmsley last week resigned from the position — news which has come as a shock, and which signifies a sad loss to women's soccer.

He will be moving to Queensland to take on the role of a Regional Director of Coaching. Walmsley would have liked to have stayed after developing the program to an exciting stage, but feels the issue of personal job security too important. "Had the terms been equal, I'd have stayed for sure," he said.

The ITC coach funding ends in December this year with the future still uncertain. "The fickle environment of government funded positions means I would be out of a job by January 1997," explained Walmsley. "Queensland offers security in the long term."

Walmsley's squad was

devastated when the announcement was made. "My main concern is for the athletes," he stressed. "We have come a long way together, but they are learning to be professional and will adapt to the changes."

For the sake of the players especially, it is essential a replacement is found without delay. Walmsley is due to start in his new job on March 18, and would like to be able to leave knowing the program will continue with the minimum of disruption.

Much has been achieved by Walmsley during his 13 months.

Establishing the program from scratch, he leaves the ITC in good shape for the next person to continue.

"It has taken a year for everything to really come together, to become the best environment for the total development of the elite player through access to

athlete services personnel and facilities. My real concern is we're just getting there, and this must be maintained."

The quality of Walmsley's program is reflected in the immediate impact on his young players. "Players like Joey Peters and Kelly Golebiowski have been in the NSW setup for longer than I have, so I can't take the credit for their great talent. But the others who have been here for a short time have shown massive development and are able to cope at higher levels."

In addition, players have moved this year from established clubs, illustrating the much higher profile of the ITC.

A more co-ordinated approach to State teams was implemented, and Walmsley has managed to earn the respect of the WSL coaches with his 'club friendly' approach to all issues.

Junior development has

also reached higher levels through the pilot schools program, development squad, talent identification network, establishment of the first girls squad in the NSW Institute program, and specific girls program at sports high schools.

The ambitious Walmsley who thrives on challenge now takes charge of the Queensland's Wide Bay region, a large area which includes Gympie, Bundaberg and Maryborough.

Based at the Martins Oval complex in Bundaberg, he will develop his career with a greater diversity of tasks such as coach education, elite development, program development, and working with all levels of player both male and female.

Autonomous in his role, Walmsley has big plans for the region and looks forward to the job ahead.

Still within reach of Brisbane, Walmsley intends to maintain his involvement

with elite female soccer, and hopes to be working with the Queensland State teams, as well as raising the profile of the women's game in his own region.

So ends another chapter in the football career of Tony Walmsley. Working seven years in Tasmania after arriving from Manchester at age 21, he then made Sydney his home, but circumstances now dictate another move.

"I have enjoyed my term at NSW and leaving is difficult. Through professional development, I hope to maintain contact. I have worked with some good people and some excellent players. I am grateful for all the support I have received from the Women's Soccer Council, Soccer NSW, and the AWSA.

I believe the squad will be successful and hope for a good Mitchell Cup performance which would be a nice way to leave."

Narrow loss in Italy for Marconi

Marconi kicked off its tour of Italy last Thursday with a 2-1 loss to ACT Monza in Milan. A crowd of 3000 turned out in the 10°C temperature.

Fielding three Italian internationals and two National Youth players, Monza had Marconi under pressure for long periods. "The Italian girls had a great first touch and were all very skilful," said player/coach Anissa Tann-Darby.

"We had to match them physically to be competitive. The result was a fair one."

Jane Hornsby found the net for Marconi, with Traci Bartlett their outstanding player.

Marconi takes on Aussie Angela Tannotta's team ACF Agliana today (Tuesday) in Florence, after which they will visit the training camp of Serie A team Fiorentina.

TOP PLAYERS IN BATHURST

The Second Mitchell Cup/Mitchell Shield pre-season tournament kicks off this weekend in Bathurst, in NSW's central west. After the success of 1995, the event has grown by 50% in both the WSL and local divisions.

The ITC squads from NSW, NNSW and ACT will all compete against the 12 other WSL teams for the Cup. NSW ITC will field guest players Kristyn Swaffer and Sarah Fitzgerald to make up for several injured players.

Other top players will include Joanne Peters, Tracie McGovern, Bridgette Starr, Sacha Wainwright, Karly Puma, Michelle Watson and Katrina Boyd.

AWSA officials Tom Sermann and Peter Hugg will also be in attendance.

Local clinics will be run by Tony Walmsley, with major sponsors for the tournament including Ram Sportswear and Horizons Golf Resort.

PLAYER FACTS

- Kristy Moore -
OAP Squad, SA



Nickname: Krusty or Mooreay
Date of Birth: 28th January, 1977
Birthplace: Adelaide
Height: 160cm
Naturally left or right footed: Right
Position: Forward
Club: West Adelaide
No. of brothers/sisters: 2 brothers, 3 sisters

When/why started soccer: Age 6 — I was a tomboy and liked 'boy's sports
Previous clubs:

Rep Honours:

Elizabeth Vale, Brahma Lodge, Gawler, Sturt Marion, Modbury Vista SA and Aust U/16 1990-93; SA and Aust U/19 1994-95; SA Open 1995; Aust OAP Squad 1996 Dianne Alagich Winning Dallas Cup and Youth Challenge 1995 Alan Shearer Ford Cortina Spaghetti bolognese Banana smoothie Live, Oasis, Pearl Jam Home Improvements, English Soccer Jean Claude van Damme Playing guitar, surfing, listening to music First thing I'd buy if won Lottery: House for my mother Harry Connick Jr Pele Person I'd most like to meet: Soccer ambitions: 1999 World Cup, 2000 Sydney Olympics Chicken roll Pre-match meal: None — but like to listen to loud music to psych up Scoring goals Pre-match superstitions: Not consistent through whole game In Youth Challenge final v NZ Will be hot!

Most difficult opponent:
Soccer highlight:

Favourite player:
Car I drive:
Favourite food:
Favourite drink:
Favourite music:
Favourite TV:
Favourite actor:
Hobbies:

Playing guitar, surfing, listening to music

First thing I'd buy if won Lottery: House for my mother

Most famous person I've met: Harry Connick Jr

Person I'd most like to meet: Pele

Soccer ambitions: 1999 World Cup, 2000 Sydney Olympics

Pre-match meal: Chicken roll

Pre-match superstitions: None — but like to listen to loud music to psych up

Scoring goals

Best aspect of my game: Not consistent through whole game

Worst aspect: In Youth Challenge final v NZ

Best goal scored: Will be hot!

Atlanta Olympics prediction:

ITALY's Serie A & B

TABLES

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	23	14	8	1	37	16	50
Fiorentina	23	13	6	4	38	20	45
Parma	23	11	9	3	33	19	42
Lazio	23	11	6	6	45	26	39
Juventus	23	11	6	6	36	23	39
Inter	23	9	8	6	30	18	35
Roma	23	9	7	7	29	22	34
Vicenza	23	8	8	7	24	22	32
Sampdoria	23	8	7	8	33	33	31
Udinese	23	8	7	8	26	29	31
Napoli	23	7	8	8	22	29	29
Cagliari	23	8	3	12	22	36	27
Atalanta	23	7	5	11	25	36	26
Piacenza	23	6	6	11	23	41	24
Padova	23	6	3	14	27	40	21
Torino	23	4	9	10	21	34	21
Bari	23	4	6	13	32	49	18
Cremonese	23	3	8	12	26	36	17

SERIE B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cesena	24	10	8	6	33	23	38
Verona	24	10	8	6	26	21	38
Bologna	24	8	12	4	20	15	36
Perugia	24	9	9	6	30	25	36
Pescara	24	9	7	8	29	30	34
Salernitana	24	8	9	7	27	18	33
Ancona	24	10	3	11	34	30	33
Lucchese	24	7	12	5	26	26	33
Reggiana	24	8	9	7	22	22	33
Venezia	24	8	9	7	21	24	33
Avellino	24	9	5	10	27	30	32
Genoa	24	8	7	9	34	32	31
Palermo	24	6	13	5	18	23	31
F.Andria	24	7	9	8	29	26	30
Cosenza	22	6	12	6	26	27	30
Chievo	24	5	14	5	22	19	29
Reggina	24	7	8	9	23	33	29
Brescia	24	7	6	11	28	31	27
Foggia	24	6	8	10	17	26	26
Pistoiese	24	4	8	12	20	31	20

RESULTS

SERIE A

Bari	0	Vicenza	2
Cremonese	3	Cagliari	1
Fiorentina	3	Napoli	0
Inter	1	Atalanta	0
Padova	1	Lazio	3
Roma	1	Torino	0
Sampdoria	3	Piacenza	0
Udinese	0	Parma	0
Juventus	1	Milan	1

SERIE B

Salernitana	5	Brescia	0
Perugia	2	Cesena	2
Chievo Verona	3	Cosenza	0
Ancona	1	Fidelis Andria	1
Reggina	1	Foggia	0
Reggiana	0	Genoa	0
Palermo	2	Lucchese	2
Venezia	2	Pescara	1
Avellino	2	Pistoiese	0
Bologna	0	Verona	0

Milan's lead reduced by Fiorentina

Argentine Gabriel Batistuta single-handedly kept second-place Fiorentina's Italian title challenge alive last Sunday, scoring twice and making another in a 3-0 win over Napoli that narrowed Milan's lead to four points.

The prolific striker took his tally for the season to 16, first by rifling home a free kick in the 36th minute, then by rounding off a rapid counter-attack with a clinical finish.

Still not satisfied, Batistuta set up a third for striking partner Francesco Baiano in the 78th minute as Fiorentina kept up the pressure on leaders Milan.

Fiorentina remain second in Serie A with 45 points from 23 matches, five adrift of Milan, and three ahead of Parma.

Third-place Parma slipped with a scoreless draw at Udinese and were left to rue second-half headers from Massimo Crippa and Gabriele Pin that both rebounded off the crossbar.

Goals from Giuseppe Signori, Pierluigi Casiraghi and Diego Fuser together with Luca Marchegiani's first-half penalty save brought an emphatic 3-1 away win for Lazio at Padova, lifting the Rome side into fourth spot.

Maurizio Ganz's penalty miss against his former club Atalanta failed to deny seventh-place Inter a 1-0 victory, courtesy of Marco Branca's goal in the eighth minute.

A moment of madness from Sweden's Jonas Thern, sent off for throwing a punch at Giuseppe Minaudi - also dismissed - marred Roma's 1-0 victory over Torino at the Olympic stadium. Francesco Statuto's 16th minute goal settled the match.

Batistuta's 36th-minute opener again demonstrated his value in Fiorentina's run of 13 league matches without defeat.



Gabriel Batistuta: His double strike maintained Fiorentina's challenge to Milan.

With Napoli's South American centre-back duo of Andre Cruz and Roberto Ayala keeping Fiorentina at bay with ease, the Argentinian picked himself up from a foul by Fabio Pecchia to find the top corner with an unstoppable

free kick from 20 metres. Batistuta's goal fed confidence into a Fiorentina side clearly rattled by Napoli's dangerous counter-attacks, and it came as no surprise when the Argentinian added a second. In one movement, he

chest down a smooth ball and swept it past Giuseppe Tagliafata to join Igor Protti as equal top scorer in Serie A.

Three minutes later, the goalscorer turned goalkeeper, crossing for Baiano to head home.

MILAN & JUVE DRAW



Defending Serie A champions Juventus drew 1-1 at home with league leaders and arch rivals AC Milan in arguably the most prestigious match of the Italian season.

Juve's international midfielder, Antonio Conte shocked the capacity crowd when he scored after only four minutes.

A free-kick just outside Milan's penalty area ricocheted off the wall and the subsequent loose ball was pile-driven by Conte from 30 metres out.

Milan's reply came 26 minutes later when FIFA World Player of the Year George Weah scored a typical opportunistic goal.

Weah has now scored 10 Serie A goals and was seen as the only difference between the two glamour teams.

Milan, who have only lost once this season, are now five points clear of second placed Fiorentina with 11 matches to go.

ROME SOCCER BOMB A DUD

The Mafia planted a car bomb in front of Rome's Olympic stadium in 1993 during a match but it failed to explode.

Milan's Corriere della Sera quoted Florence magistrate PierLuigi Vigna as saying the remote-controlled car bomb was to have exploded in an area near the stadium where police vans are usually parked during Sunday matches.

The blast could have killed many policemen, it added.

"Everything was ready. The car with the explosives was already there. Thank God the electrical impulse did not go off," Vigna was quoted as saying during a weekend debate on organised crime near Florence.

Vigna is one of the magistrates who investigated a spate of bombs that killed 10 people in Florence and Milan in 1993. Two bombs also went off in Rome the same year but no-one was killed in those blasts.

Magistrates attributed all of the blasts to the Mafia as part of a plot to destabilise Italy.

The explosions damaged the Uffizi museum in Florence and a modern art museum in Milan.

They believe the Mafia carried out the two blasts against Rome churches to punish Pope John Paul for a strong attack he made against the crime organisation during a visit to Sicily the same year.

Authorities lay down plans to keep the peace

BY DAVID LJUNGGREN
OF REUTERS

Four months before the start of the European Championship, the English authorities are putting the finishing touches to a vast operation designed to stop hooligans who may intend to try to disrupt the event.

The June 8-30 tournament, the biggest sporting event of its kind in the country for 30 years, is widely seen as the perfect opportunity for the English to shed their violent reputation for provoking mayhem at soccer matches.

But German, Dutch, Austrian and Belgian social workers dealing with known violent soccer fans have said German thugs plan to turn the championship into a "hooligan world cup".

The news predictably sparked the ire of Britain's hardline Home Secretary Michael Howard.

"Our message to soccer hooligans is simple. Don't come. You are not welcome. And most importantly you will be caught by the police," he said this month at Birmingham's Villa Park, one of the eight venues for the 16-team tournament.

Whether or not he has to eat his words depends largely on the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), a low-profile arm of the British police leading the fight against both foreign and domestic hooligans.



"We know where our main troublemakers are. We have a database of 6,000 names, all British, and of these 200 are the main targets, the ones we are interested in," said NCIS spokeswoman Sue Daniels in an interview.

"We feel we have put into place a mechanism to take care of problem areas and decrease possible flashpoints."

The NCIS has a dedicated soccer unit which coordinates with soccer intelligence officers — special police who get to know the fans across the country and feed back information.

Before and during the championship the NCIS will liaise with similar police units abroad.

"We have other sources to get a national picture so we can tell local police about certain fans and planned fights. The local police decide how to tackle the situation," said Daniels.

A year ago a few English

fans sullied their already tarnished reputation at a friendly against Ireland in Dublin, raining chairs, bottles, pieces of wood and other missiles onto the pitch. The match was abandoned.

Daniels said NCIS had predicted to within 15 minutes when the trouble would start, but the Irish were not interested.

Officials are not expecting the most serious trouble to erupt at the championship matches themselves.

Soccer hooligans over the last few years have moved out of the stadiums because of the security cameras, segregated seating and other factors. The trouble tends to be in transport systems or in shopping centres before or after matches," said Daniels.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Police will use new technology such as Epicentre, a special e-mail system, and Photophone, which enables photographs of offenders to be sent from one stadium to another in 30 seconds.

The final matches will be played at Wembley Stadium in London, where spokesman Martin Corrie said there was no history of crowd trouble.

Just one person was arrested when Wembley hosted the 1993 European Cup Winners' Cup final between Parma and Antwerp and he said the stadium



An ugly scene from last year's England v Ireland match.

expected similar upmarket football fan interest in June.

But police are taking no chances. A police control centre at Wembley will be able to influence the flow of traffic and spectators up to 20 km away from the stadium and continually monitor turnstiles.

A computerised map

designed to show potential flashpoints lists the ground plans of 80 to 90 clubs and bars in London.

London police have also asked all local forces to think about making contingency plans for the championships.

If England lose or are knocked out, trouble is just

as likely to break out in a pub in Purley (a southern London suburb) as around Wembley," one source said.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

The Football Association (FA), which together with European soccer body

UEFA will run the competition, is taking measures to avert trouble provoked by possible cultural differences.

Championship security officer Adrian Titcombe said the FA would be producing a leaflet in the national language of every team taking part to explain what was allowed and what was not.

"I think our supporters know there's no mileage in causing trouble at stadiums and we have to get this across to the foreign fans," he said in an interview.

"The leaflet emphasises that we sit down during matches and, quaint as though this may seem, we do actually form queues in this country. There can be no flares, no fireworks and nothing which can be classified as a weapon."

The leaflet details criminal offences under English law, which include running onto the pitch, throwing missiles and shouting racial abuse.

But the FA is less happy about a UEFA rule banning the sale of anything but very weak alcoholic drinks inside the stadiums.

"It's often been our experience that it's better to have fans drinking inside than outside in a pub or a bar. One of our worries is that people will leave it late to get to the stadium and many won't know where the ground is," Titcombe said.

Croatian Corner

BY JOHN VISKOVICH



JARNI, BEST DEFENDER IN SPAIN

Spanish sport paper "As" has named Robert Jarni the best defender in Spain. The former Juventus star polled 68 votes while second place Romanian Popescu polled 60.

The paper also went on to say that Jarni was the best defender since Gordillo in Spain and also said he was as good as Maldini and Roberto Carlos at the moment.

Real Betis's Jarni was also voted second as the best foreign player in Spain. The 21-year-old Nenad Bjelica also a Croat was voted 10th to everyone's surprise.

However the biggest surprise of the night was that Pavor Suker wasn't even close to winning anything. Suker previously cleaned up all the awards in 1993 when he was voted best player in Spain by all the Spanish Sporting Publications. But in 1995 Suker was left empty handed.

BRUGGE INJURY WORRIES

If losing Australian libero Paul Okon wasn't enough, for Belgium's Club Brugge, Croats Marco Stanic and Robert

Spehar are both out injured as well.

Club Brugge, who are on top of the league in Belgium, will find it very hard to fight off Anderlecht unless the three stars are back as soon as possible.

Okon who is out for the season is probably the biggest loss of all as he has been voted the best player in Belgium for 1995.

However midfielder Robert Spehar should be back in a month while top goalscorer in Belgium, Marco Stanic is expected to be available soon.

BOKSIC NO TO MIDDLESBROUGH

Alen Boksic is finding life at Lazio very hard as coach Zeman keeps playing him as a provider to Italians Casiraghi and Signori and not nine striker.

The former European Cup winner with Marseille is itching to move to a club where he can play as an out-and-out striker again.

In recent times he knocked back a move to Newcastle (which Colombian Asprilla took instead) and has just rejected a move to Middlesbrough which Lazio accepted but Boksic didn't.

At the end of the season Alan Boksic is set for a tug of war between rivals Juventus and Fiorentina who are both eager to sign him.



Steve Horvat: Keeping Darko Butorovic out of Hajduk right back spot.

The Lazio playmaker, at 25, still has many years ahead of him to make it big in Italy.

The player most likely to replace Boksic at Lazio is German Fredi Bobic of Stuttgart. The 22-year-old wants an early baptism into the best league in the world, Serie A.

MORNAR ON THE MOVE

Ivica Mornar, Eintracht Frankfurt's most prized asset, is set to leave the club and join Torino in Serie A.

However, Mornar has to wait till the

end of the season for the cash strapped club to complete the sale. Eintracht is in dire straits" at the moment and the club needs big sales to survive.

The Croat's friend at the club Aussie Nedeljko Zelic will remain with the club as Mornar said: "Nedeljko is already a big name in Germany and Eintracht won't want to lose him too, after all they just got him."

The former Hajduk star is just one more player for Serie A but other Croat youngsters are set to join some of the less fashionable Italian clubs next season.

IN BRIEF...

Boban has just signed a big contract to advertise Opel cars for television and press ads. The AC Milan midfielder has also said he will give the club his future and will honour his contract which expires in 1999.

Croatian International Darko Butorovic is fit to play right back at Hajduk but coach Mirko Jozic is instead putting Aussie Steve Horvat in that position.

The disgruntled Croat is very unhappy after coming back from a three month lay off.

For more Croatian sports news listen to Cro 2000 Wednesday on Sydney's 98.5FM at 8.45pm with Ante Grbovac (in English).

News From Around The Globe



AJAX AND ZARAGOZA MISS OUT

The second leg of the European Super Cup match between Ajax Amsterdam and Real Zaragoza of Spain scheduled for last Tuesday, has been postponed.

Match referee Lesley Mottram of Scotland declared the pitch, at the Olympic Stadium, unfit for play at an inspection in the morning following freezing conditions and heavy rain in Amsterdam.

The first leg a fortnight ago between European Cup winners Ajax and European Cup Winners' Cup holders Zaragoza in Spain ended 1-1.

SPARTAK FOUNDER DIES

Nikolai Starostin, founder and president of the Spartak Moscow team, has died at the age of 93.

With his brothers - Alexander, Andrei and Pyotr - Starostin played many times for the Soviet Union as it emerged as a soccer force between the wars.

He was a founder member of Spartak in the 1930s, breaking the mould of clubs run by the military and big state corporations.

Stalin condemned him to 10 years in a labour camp for promoting "bourgeois sport" and only the intervention of the dictator's son, Vasily, saved him.

FRANCE HEADS FOR RECORD

FRANCE 3 GREECE 1

Manager Aime Jacquet equalled a Michel Platini record when he led France to their 19th consecutive unbeaten outing in a friendly against Greece last Wednesday.

France, undefeated since Jacquet took over in the wake of their shock elimination from the 1994 World Cup finals, beat the Greeks 3-1 in their second warm-up match for Euro 96.

Trailing 1-0 after five minutes, France were indebted to Patrice Loko (right), who scored after half an hour and then converted a 46th minute penalty.

Gifted playmaker Zinedine Zidane buried Greek hopes when he scored a third just three minutes later.

Unlike Portugal, who provided the French with strong opposition in a friendly last month, the young Greek side only impressed for half an hour before fading.

They had dominated after Olympiakos striker Alexakis Alexandris scored in the fifth minute. A fine pass by Nikos Mahlas found winger Zizis Vryzas and his cross towards the penalty spot was volleyed home superbly.

Stunned, the French struggled in freezing and windy conditions in Nimes for the next 20 minutes, during which Greek goalkeeper Ilias Atmatzidis was never in danger.

But the home side turned on the

CROWD TROUBLE CLOSES GROUND

Espanyol were ordered to close their Sarria stadium for one game because of crowd trouble at their match against Atletico Madrid on February 18.

The referee was hit by an orange as he left the field. He was struck in the stomach and winded.

The Espanyol fans were angered by Brito Arceo's failure to penalise several apparent fouls by Atletico players. Atletico won the top-of-the-table clash 2-0.

BOSNIA PLAY ALBANIA IN SARAJEVO

Albania will play a friendly against Bosnia in Sarajevo in April, an Albanian association official said.

The official said he was very pleased Bosnia had chosen Albania for the match on April 24 in the war ravaged city, despite having received offers from Italy, Croatia and Slovenia.

Albania beat Bosnia 2-0 in Tirana last November.

MOSCOW MAYOR ASSISTS TOP CLUB

Moscow Spartak, which goes into next month's



Vasili Kulkov: Former Spartak star now with Millwall.

European Cup quarter-finals with a squad decimated by the loss of star players, was given a huge boost last Wednesday to help continue to compete with the continent's top clubs.

In an unprecedented move, the Mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, signed a decree allowing the club to sign players without paying statutory fees to the city.

Previously Spartak had to pay up to \$A195,000 per man to the city government for a licence and residence permit to bring in players from outside Moscow.

Spartak was the revelation of the opening stage of the European Champions' League before Christmas, finishing top of its group with maximum points after double victories against Blackburn Rovers, Legia Warsaw and Rosenborg, to march into the last eight.

The only side with a 100 per cent record at the league stage, Spartak was considered a real threat to holder Ajax Amsterdam and Italian champion Juventus, but then lost the backbone of the team in transfer deals with clubs in Germany, Britain and Spain.

The departures were goalkeeper Stanislav Cherchesov (FC Tirol, Austria), captain Viktor Onopko (Real Oviedo, Spain) and Vasili Kulkov and Sergei Yuran (Millwall, England).

"We shall have to rely on our young players," admitted club president Oleg Romantsev last week.

The mayor's new deal will not help Spartak out of immediate problem, but it will at least enable it to secure reinforcements to plug the gaps for domestic competition and rebuild for future European ventures.

ATLETICO ON WAY TO DOUBLE

A penalty from Romanian international Gheorghe Popescu gave Barcelona a 1-0 win over neighbour Espanyol in their Spanish Cup semi-final first leg game.

A lacklustre match came



pressure and after a series of corners Loko nodded home the equaliser from a deflection.

His penalty came after Stratos Apostolakis brought down Reynald Pedros down and then Zidane skipped through the Greek defence to make the match safe.

alive in the 51st minute when Popescu converted a penalty after Abelardo Fernandez was brought down by Espanyol's Argentine defender Mauricio Pochettino.

Javi Garcia and Jordi Lardin, who hit the post with a left-foot effort, had several chances to put Espanyol back in the game, as Jose Antonio Camacho's side took advantage of the wide open spaces in the Camp Nou stadium to find room on the wings.

The best opportunity fell to Barcelona's Bosnian forward Mehdi Kodro, who was put through beautifully by Ivan de la Pena but waited too long to shoot and found his route to goal blocked by Espanyol reserve keeper Raul Arribas.

The return leg will be played next week.

Earlier, league leader Atletico Madrid went a long way to booking its place in the final with an emphatic 5-3 victory in its first-leg semi-final at Valencia.

WORDS TURN TO BLOWS

Atletico Madrid striker Luboslav Penev and Valencia chairman

Francisco Roig brawled following their clubs' King's Cup (Spain) semi-final last Wednesday and had to be separated by police.

Roig was heard to have called the Bulgarian a "clown" and Penev responded by punching him and bloodying his nose. Roig then retaliated and other team members joined in while reporters watched.

"He insulted me and I had to defend myself," the 29-year-old Penev said.

After the fight, Roig's wife, Magdalena Melchor, threatened Penev.

Atletico is considering disciplining Penev for fighting. After five years with Valencia, Penev transferred to Atletico this season and publicly blamed Roig for using the player's bout with testicular cancer to reduce his contract.

The fight came just a few hours after the conclusion of Atletico's victory in the first leg of their King's Cup semi.

The second leg is scheduled for this week.

SQUAD SIZES INCREASED

The 16 countries competing in this summer's European Championship finals in England won preliminary UEFA approval today to increase the size of their squads from 21 to 22 players.

The move, supported by all 16 national coaches attending a tournament workshop in London, will be put to UEFA's executive committee for final approval in April.

"We support the change but since it involves a change in the rules, we need the blessing of the executive committee," UEFA secretary general Gerhard Aigner said.

"Players are more and more involved in world-class football and the fact that they may have to play up to six matches in 20 days could make it necessary for a coach to call on all his players, so we believe it will be better to have 22."

UEFA had already sanctioned an increase from 20 to 21 players to accommodate a third goalkeeper, but now teams can have backup for almost every position.

Germany win in Portugal



Two goals by Borussia Dortmund's Andreas Moeller (right) gave Germany a 2-1 victory in Oporto over Portugal in a European championship warm-up match last Wednesday.

The Germans went 1-0 up in the 13th minute when Moeller's long left foot shot found the corner of the net after a pass from Thomas Hassler.

In the 42nd minute the Germans came tantalisingly close to scoring again when Christian Ziege crossed to unmarked defender Markus Babbel who had only keeper Vitor Baia in front of him, but the shot went just wide.

Antonio Folha equalised in the 51st minute after a mistake by Juergen Kohler who failed to clear a cross and Portugal then pressed hard for 10 minutes, forcing German keeper Andreas Koepke to make two excellent saves in quick succession after shots from Rui Costa and Jorge Costa.

But the formidable German counter-attack machine quickly recovered and in the 65th minute Moeller scored his second from just outside the area.

With 10 minutes left, Bayern Munich's Juergen Klinsmann lined up his only real shot at goal but it went wide.

The striker is feared in Portugal ever since he scored four goals to give his team a 4-1 victory over Benfica in a UEFA Cup tie last November.

German coach Berti

Vogts said he was pleased with his team's performance. "They played well and deserved to win. I think Portugal were a bit below par."

Portugal and Germany are in the same group or the 1998 World Cup qualifiers.

PORTUGAL - Vitor Baia, Carlos Secretario (Fernando Nelson 84th), Thomas Haessler (Mario Basler 69th), Andreas Koepke, Juergen Klinsmann, Stefan Kuntz (Oliver Bierhoff 46th).

GERMANY - Andy Koepke, Juergen Kohler, Matthias Sammer, Thomas Helmer, Steffen Freund, Markus Babbel, Christian Ziege (Joerg Albertz 46th), Thomas Haessler (Mario Basler 69th), Andreas Koepke, Juergen Klinsmann, Stefan Kuntz (Oliver Bierhoff 46th).

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Blackburn 2 (Wilcox 25th minute, Sherwood 83rd) Liverpool 3 (Collymore 10th, 21st; Thomas 70th). Halftime 1-2. Attendance: 30,895
 Bolton v Manchester United - postponed
 Coventry 0 Middlesbrough 0. 18,810
 Everton 3 (Kanchelskis 52nd, Watson 56th, Ferguson 60th) Nottingham Forest 0. 0-0. 33,163
 Manchester City 3 (Quinn 16th, 62nd, Roesler 77th) Newcastle 3 (Albert 44th, 81st, Asprilla 71st. 1-1. 31,115
 Southampton 2 (Widdington 6th, Clarke own goal 38th) Chelsea 3 (Wise 20th, penalty 26th, Gullit 53rd). 2-2. 15,226
 Tottenham 1 (Armstrong 32nd) Sheffield Wednesday 0. 1-0. 32,047
 West Ham 0 Arsenal 1 (Hartson 2nd). 0-1. 24,217
 Wimbledon 3 (Goodman 10th, 47th, Harford 90th) Aston Villa 3 (Reeves own goal 33rd, Yorke penalty 48th, Cunningham own goal 57th). 1-1. 12,193.
 Bolton 0 Manchester Utd 6

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Derby 3 Portsmouth 2
 Huddersfield 3 Crystal Palace 0
 Millwall 2 Norwich 1
 Oldham 1 Charlton 1
 Reading 1 Leicester 1
 Sheffield Utd 1 Barnsley 0
 Sunderland 1 Luton 0
 Tranmere 0 Stoke 0
 Watford 2 Ipswich 3
 Wolverhampton 2 Southend 0
 Port Vale P Grimsby P

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Blackpool 2 Brighton 1
 Bristol City 2 Bradford 1
 Carlisle 1 Oxford Utd 2
 Crewe 2 Bournemouth 0
 Hull 3 Burnley 0
 Notts County 1 Shrewsbury 1
 Rotherham 0 Chesterfield 1
 Swindon 2 Bristol Rovers 1
 Walsall 0 Brentford 1
 Wrexham 1 Peterborough 0
 Wycombe 4 Stockport 1
 York 0 Swansea 0

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Cambridge Utd 2 Bury 4
 Cardiff 2 Gillingham 0
 Colchester 1 Darlington 1
 Fulham 2 Exeter 1
 Hartlepool 4 Leyton Orient 1
 Hereford 0 Scarborough 0
 Lincoln 0 Chester 0
 Mansfield P Rochdale P
 (waterlogged pitch)
 Northampton 3 Doncaster 3
 Plymouth 1 Barnet 1
 Scunthorpe 1 Preston 2
 Wigan 3 Torquay 0

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Celtic 4 Partick 0
 Hibernian 2 Falkirk 1
 Kilmarnock 0 Hearts 2
 Motherwell 1 Raith 0
 Aberdeen 0 Rangers 1

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Dundee 2 Airdrieonians 0

LEADING GOALSCORERS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

30 - Alan Shearer (Blackburn)
 26 - Robbie Fowler (Liverpool)
 25 - Les Ferdinand (Newcastle)
 21 - Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham)
 20 - Dwight Yorke (Aston Villa)
 19 - Ian Wright (Arsenal)
 16 - Tony Yeboah (Leeds)
 15 - Dion Dublin (Coventry)
 14 - Chris Armstrong (Tottenham)

Dunfermline 2 Dundee Utd 2
 Greenock Morton 2 Dumbarton 0
 Hamilton 1 Clydebank 1
 St Mirren 1 St Johnstone 3

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Berwick 0 Stirling 3
 Clyde 3 Forfar 1
 East Fife 1 Ayr 1
 Montrose 0 Queen of South 6
 Stenhousemuir 2 Stranraer 0

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Alloa 3 Albion 1
 Arbroath 1 Livingston 2
 Caledonian Thistle 0 Brechin 1
 East Stirling 2 Ross County 4
 Queen's Park 2 Cowdenbeath 1

ENGLISH FA CUP FIFTH ROUND
- FEBRUARY 21 -

Leeds 0 Port Vale 0
 (eventual winners at home to Liverpool or Charlton in the quarter-finals)
 Grimsby 0 Chelsea 0
 (eventual winners at home to Huddersfield or Wimbledon)

LEAGUE CUP
SEMI-FINAL, SECOND LEG

Aston Villa 0 Arsenal 0
 after extra time
 (Aggregate 2-2. Aston Villa wins on away goals rule.)

Leeds 3 Birmingham 0
 (Leeds wins 5-1 on aggregate and meet Aston Villa in the final at Wembley on Sunday, March 24)

FRIENDLY INTERNATIONALS
- February 21 -

France 3 Greece 1
 France Patrice Loko (30th and 46th-penalty), Zinedine Zidane (49th)
 Greece Alekos Alexandris (5th)
 Attendance: 23,438

Germany 2 Portugal 1
 Portugal Antonio Folha (51st minute)
 Germany Andreas Moeller (13th and 65th)
 Attendance: 25,000

SPANISH CUP SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG
- February 21 -

Valencia 3 Atletico Madrid 5
 Barcelona 1 Espanyol 0

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION
- February 25 -

Valencia 3 Oviedo 1
 Compostela 3 Real Madrid 3
 Salamanca 1 Rayo Vallecano 2
 Albacete 2 Merida 0
 Real Sociedad 1 Valladolid 0
 Atletico Madrid 3 Celta Vigo 2
 Sporting Gijon 2 Espanyol 3
 Sevilla 1 Athletic Bilbao 1
 Racing Santander 2 Deportivo Coruna 1
 Tenerife 1 Real Zaragoza 2
 Barcelona 1 Real Betis 0

TABLE

Atletico Madrid	28	20	4	4	52	16	64
Barcelona	28	16	8	4	50	22	56
Compostela	28	16	5	7	40	33	53
Valencia	28	16	4	8	52	35	52
Espanyol	28	14	9	5	39	23	51
Real Madrid	28	12	8	8	52	40	44
Real Betis	28	11	11	6	38	31	44
Tenerife	28	11	9	8	42	42	42
Real Sociedad	28	11	8	9	36	36	42
Deportivo Coruna	28	11	7	10	45	25	40
Athletic Bilbao	28	8	10	10	30	39	34
Celta Vigo	28	8	9	11	29	35	33
Zaragoza	28	8	9	11	31	40	33
Racing Santander	28	7	10	12	29	45	31
Sevilla	28	7	9	12	28	40	30
Albacete	28	7	9	12	39	52	30
Oviedo	28	7	8	13	29	42	29
Sporting Gijon	28	8	4	16	35	42	28
Rayo Vallecano	28	7	7	14	29	47	28
Merida	28	5	12	11	23	38	27
Salamanca	28	5	9	14	38	49	24
Valladolid	28	5	8	15	33	48	23

FRENCH CUP THIRD ROUND
- February 23 -

Niort 0 Strasbourg 1
 Valence 1 Laval 0
 Toulon 1 Montpellier 1
 (1-1 after extra time. Montpellier qualified 4-1 on penalties)
 Caen v Sochaux, postponed because of bad weather

- February 24 -

Blenod 0 Marseille 2
 Auxerre 3 Paris St Germain 1
 Thouars 0 Nimes 2
 Lille 1 Monaco 1
 (1-1 after extra time. Lille qualified 5-4 on penalties)

CYPRUS' FIRST DIVISION
- February 19 -

Aradippou	0	APOEL	4
Olympiakos	0	AEK	2
Omonia	3	Paralimni	1
Apollon	0	Anorthosis	0
Salamina	2	AEL	1
Ethnikos	1	Evagoras	1
Alki	0	Aris	2

TABLE

APOEL Nicosia	16	13	3	0	41	12	42
AEK Larnaca	16	12	1	3	30	12	37
Omonia Nicosia	16	11	3	2	42	19	36
Anorthosis F/gusta	16	8	6	2	32	16	30
Apollon L/ssol	16	6	6	4	19	15	24
Paralimni	16	6	5	5	26	24	23
Alki Larnaca	16	6	4	6	27	30	22
Ethnikos Alna	16	5	6	5	20	22	21
Aris Limassol	16	4	7	5	19	20	19
AEL Limassol	16	4	2	10	23	35	14
Salamina F/gusta	16	4	2	10	18	31	14
Olympiakos Nicosia	16	3	3	10	9	20	12
Evagoras Paphos	16	2	6	8	15	30	12
Omonia Aradippou	16	0	2	14	14	49	2

BULGARIAN FIRST DIVISION
- February 19 -

Lovetch	0	Etur	0
Spartak Varna	3	Neftohimik	0
Levski Sofia	4	Lokomotiv Plovdiv	0
Slavia	2	Dobrudzha	0
Shumen	0	Lokomotiv Sofia	0
Botev	0	CSKA	4
Spartak Plovdiv	1	Levski Kyustendil	0
Rakovski	0	Montana	0

TABLE

Levski Sofia	16	12	2	2	26	7	38
Slavia	16	10	3	3	26	7	33
Neftohimik	16	10	2	4	30	19	32
Lokomotiv Sofia	16	9	4	3	29	13	31
Spartak Varna	16	8	2	6	31	25	26
CSKA	16	7	4	5	25	18	25
Etur	16	7	3	6	11	12	24
Dobrudzha	16	7	2	7	14	19	23
Levski Kyustendil	16	6	4	6	17	16	22
Montana	16	5	6	5	16	13	21
Lokomotiv Plovdiv	16	6	1	9	12	25	19
Botev	16	5	2	9	18	24	17
Rakovski	16	4	2	10	17	24	14
Spartak Plovdiv	16	4	2	10	13	33	14
Lovetch	16	1	7	8	8	19	10
Shumen	16	2	4	10	9	28	10

TURKEY'S FIRST DIVISION
- February 19 -

Istanbulspor	1	Bursaspor	1
Fenerbahce	1	Gaziantepspor	0
Genclerbirligi	1	Galatasaray	2

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

OFI 0 Athinaikos 1
 Panathinaikos 4 Paniliakos 1
 Aris 0 PAOK 0
 Panahaiki 1 Olympiakos 1

TABLE

AEK 22 18 2 2 59 15 56
 Panathinaikos 22 17 4 1 52 14 55
 Olympiakos 22 15 6 1 52 18 51
 OFI 22 12 3 7 43 34 39
 Edessaikos 22 9 6 7 33 36 33
 Ionikos 22 8 5 9 32 32 29
 Iraklis 22 8 5 9 28 29 29
 Kalamata 22 7 7 8 29 35 28
 Athinaikos 22 8 4 10 19 29 28
 Panahaiki 22 7 5 10 20 31 26
 Apollon 22 6 7 9 30 31 25
 Xanthi 22 6 7 9 27 35 25
 Aris 22 6 7 9 22 30 25
 Paniliakos 22 6 6 10 27 33 24
 PAOK 22 6 8 8 25 27 23
 Panionios 22 5 4 13 24 38 19
 Larissa 22 4 5 13 17 44 17
 Ethnikos 22 3 3 16 23 51 12
 Note: PAOK deducted three points after crowd trouble.

SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP**— February 25 —**

Aarau 4 St Gallen 0
 Neuchatel Xamax 0 Grasshopper 0
 Servette 1 Basle 1
 Sion 1 Lucerne 0

PORTUGUESE CUP QUARTER-FINAL**— February 25 —**

Benfica 1 Guimaraes 0
 after extra-time
 Porto 2 Penafiel 0
 Uniao Lefria 2 Maritimo 1
 Olhanense 1 Sporting 2

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION**— February 25 —**

Cibalia 2 Sibenik 1
 Segesta 1 Croatia 0
 Hajduk 2 Osijek 0
 Zagreb 1 Istra 1
 Marsonia 1 Varteks 2
 Inker 3 Rijeka 1

TABLE

Croatia Zagreb 21 13 5 3 44 13 44
 Hajduk Split 21 12 5 4 41 19 41
 Osijek 21 12 5 6 37 18 39
 Varteks Varazdin 21 10 6 5 27 20 36
 Zagreb 21 7 8 6 24 23 29
 Cibalia Vinkovci 21 6 9 6 26 34 27
 Sibenik 21 7 5 9 25 28 26
 Inker Zapresic 21 7 5 9 27 37 26
 Segesta Sisak 21 7 4 10 31 35 25
 Mars. Slavonski Brod 21 6 2 13 15 33 20
 Rijeka 21 4 5 12 25 41 17
 Istra Pula 21 3 7 11 17 38 16

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION**— February 25 —**

Ajax Amsterdam 6 Heerenveen 2
 Feyenoord Rotterdam 0 PSV Eindhoven 0
 Fortuna Sittard 0 Sparta Rotterdam 1
 NAC Breda 2 NEC Nijmegen 0
Matches postponed:
 Roda JC Kerkrade v RKC Waalwijk, Vitesse Arnhem v De Graafschap Doetinchem, Utrecht v Gio Ahead Eagles, Deventer Volendam v Groningen, Twente Enschede v Willem II Tilburg.

TABLE

Ajax Amsterdam 21 18 2 1 71 11 56
 PSV Eindhoven 22 17 3 2 75 13 54
 Feyenoord Rotterdam 23 11 7 5 46 29 40
 Sparta Rotterdam 23 9 8 6 34 37 35
 Willem II Tilburg 21 8 9 4 39 27 33
 NAC Breda 22 8 9 5 34 23 33
 Vitesse Arnhem 22 9 6 7 35 32 33
 Heerenveen 21 8 8 5 34 38 32
 Roda JC Kerkrade 21 7 8 6 23 23 29
 RKC Waalwijk 22 8 5 9 26 30 29
 Groningen 21 6 9 6 26 31 27
 Twente Enschede 21 7 5 9 26 33 26
 Fortuna Sittard 23 5 8 10 17 36 23
 NEC Nijmegen 23 4 6 13 23 53 18
 De Graafschap Doet. 21 3 6 12 25 45 15
 Utrecht 21 3 6 12 16 39 15
 Volendam 21 3 5 13 16 48 14
 GAE Deventer 19 2 6 11 22 40 12

IRISH PREMIER DIVISION**— February 25 —**

Cork City 3 Galway United 0

Derry City 1 Drogheda United 1
 Shamrock Rovers 2 Uni College Dublin 0
 Sligo Rovers 1 St Patrick's Athletic 1

TABLE

St Patrick's Athletic 25 14 7 4 36 27 49
 Shelbourne 25 13 9 3 33 16 48
 Bohemians 24 13 5 6 48 24 44
 Sligo Rovers 25 11 7 7 32 29 40
 Derry City 24 9 8 7 38 28 35
 Dundalk 25 9 8 8 33 31 35
 Cork City 24 9 7 8 27 25 34
 Shamrock Rovers 25 9 7 9 21 25 34
 Uni College Dublin 25 8 5 12 23 27 29
 Drogheda United 24 5 8 11 25 35 23
 Athlone Town 25 4 5 16 25 47 17
 Galway United 25 3 6 16 20 47 15

ALBANIAN FIRST DIVISION**— February 25 —**

Partizani 0 Tirana 2
 Shkumbini 4 Alpetrol 0
 Shqiponja 1 Beslidhja 0
 Vilaznia 2 Elbasani 1
 Skenderbeu 0 Sopoti 1
 Tomori 2 Flamurtari 0
 Kastrioti 2 Teuta 1
 Laci 2 Olimpik 0
 Apolonia 1 Besa 1

TABLE

Teuta 21 13 5 3 32 13 34
 Tirana 21 12 5 4 31 14 34
 Flamurtari 21 11 3 7 26 20 28
 Olimpik 21 11 3 7 29 18 27
 Besa 21 10 5 6 22 14 27
 Partizani 21 9 5 7 23 18 27
 Apolonia 21 8 7 6 29 22 25
 Sopoti 21 8 5 8 20 20 23
 Shqiponja 21 8 4 9 19 20 23
 Tomori 21 7 7 7 20 21 21
 Alpetrol 21 7 5 9 17 24 20
 Shkumbini 21 6 7 8 19 21 19
 Vilaznia 21 6 6 9 18 25 19
 Laci 21 7 3 11 25 32 17
 Kastrioti 21 6 4 11 19 27 17
 Elbasani 21 5 6 10 15 24 17
 Beslidhja 21 5 7 9 10 22 17
 Skenderbeu 21 5 3 13 18 37 13

FIFA WORLD RANKINGS

POS.	COUNTRY	1995	POINTS
1.	Brazil	(1)	69.08
2.	Italy	(3)	61.52
3.	Germany	(2)	61.35
4.	Spain	(4)	60.08
5.	Russia	(5)	59.89
6.	Netherlands	(6)	57.52
7.	France	(8)	56.57
8.	Argentina	(7)	55.47
9.	Denmark	(9)	55.02
10.	Mexico	(12)	54.38
11.	Romania	(11)	54.25
12.	Sweden	(13)	53.77
13.	Czech Republic	(14)	53.47
14.	United States	(19)	53.38
15.	Zambia	(25)	53.16
16.	Ghana	(29)	52.63
17.	equal. Bulgaria	(17)	52.39
17.	equal. Norway	(10)	52.39
19.	Colombia	(15)	51.72
20.	Portugal	(16)	51.33
21.	Switzerland	(18)	51.00
22.	Egypt	(23)	50.91
23.	South Africa	(40)	50.74
24.	Ivory Coast	(20)	50.34
25.	Tunisia	(22)	49.95
26.	Morocco	(38)	48.25
27.	England	(21)	48.22
28.	Belgium	(24)	47.68
29.	Scotland	(26)	47.32
30.	Japan	(31)	46.70
31.	Turkey	(30)	46.69
32.	Ireland	(28)	46.04
33.	Chile	(36)	45.48
34.	Cameroon	(37)	45.32
35.	Saudi Arabia	(54)	45.25
36.	Uruguay	(32)	44.36
37.	Poland	(33)	43.66
38.	Slovakia	(35)	43.34
39.	Nigeria	(27)	42.52
40.	Bolivia	(53)	41.87
41.	Greece	(34)	41.59
42.	Austria	(39)	40.81
43.	Croatia	(41)	40.26
44.	Algeria	(48)	39.97
45.	Iceland	(50)	39.24
46.	Israel	(42)	39.00
47.	Gabon	(67)	38.99
48.	Lithuania	(43)	38.70
49.	Trinidad and Tobago	(57)	38.61
50.	China	(66)	38.32
Also:			
51.	Northern Ireland	(45)	38.29
65.	Wales	(61)	33.42
62.	South Korea	(46)	34.64
52.	Australia	(51)	38.25
107.	New Zealand	(102)	18.81

Also:

51. Northern Ireland (45) 38.29

65. Wales (61) 33.42

62. South Korea (46) 34.64

52. Australia (51) 38.25

107. New Zealand (102) 18.81

An 85th minute goal from striker Meho Kodro, gave Barcelona a 1-0 home win over Real Betis in front of a crowd of 83,000 last Sunday.

The result kept Barcelona eight points behind Spanish league leader Atletico Madrid, who struggled to beat Celta Vigo 3-2.

Betis, who had lost only two of their 13 games away from home, put up a tough fight, but ended the game with only 10 men after defender Francisco Sanchez Jara picked up his second yellow card for a heavy challenge 15 minutes from time.

Barcelona took control from the start, but Betis looked dangerous on the break and it was in a counter-attack in the 40th minute that winger Robert Jarni produced a fine save from Barcelona keeper Carlos Busquets.

Barcelona's best chance had fallen to Gheorghe Popescu, who shot wide at close range from a corner in the 67th minute. Kodro, who had earlier hit the post, rose above the Betis defence to head home the winner.

Atletico came back from an early goal by Celta Vigo's Vlado Gudelj, to win a scrappy match 3-2.

Radomir Antic's team played one of their worst games of the season, and it took a fine goal from international playmaker Jose Luis Caminero midway through the second half to ensure the three

points.

Atletico particularly missed forward link-man Kiko Narvaez, who was injured in the midweek Cup tie at Valencia.

Surprise package Compostela hung on to third place, 11 behind Atletico and three behind Barcelona, after snatching a point in their home game against Real Madrid.

Goals from Ivan Zamorano, Raul Gonzalez and Fernando Hierro had given Real a 3-1 lead 10 minutes into the second half, but sloppy defence enabled Compostela to come back and Virgilio Hernandez equalised from a free-kick four minutes into stoppage time.

The draw moves Real into sixth, 20 points behind Atletico, and seven behind fifth-placed Espanyol.

With Italy's Juventus barring the way to the European Cup semifinals, the odds against the Spanish champions qualifying for Europe are increasing.

Espanyol came from behind to take their game at Sporting Gijon 3-2 with a last-minute penalty. Valencia, one point ahead in fourth, had an easier time of it in a comfortable 3-1 home win over Oviedo.

The weekend ended with lowly Salamanca's decision to fire coach Juan Manuel Lillo, after his side's 2-1 defeat at home to Rayo Vallecano.

*Ivan Zamorano:
Scored in Real's 3-3
draw with Compostela.*





SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



Love the game to succeed

Carlos Pachame, the former assistant to the 1995 Argentine World Cup winning team coach, Carlos Salvador Bilardo, is today the director of coaches at Avispa Fukuoka the newcomers of the Japanese J-League.

Pachame was a FIFA Instructor at the Japanese National Training Centre from '91 to '95.

He was a member of Argentine club Estudiantes de La Plata who won the Libertadores Cup in 1968, 1969 and 1970, and the Inter Continental Cup in 1968.

He also played for the Argentine national team in 1967 and 1969, and later for Boca Juniors, the giants of South American Football.

In 1985 he guided Argentina to the South American Under 20 championship.

While in Australia he had the chance to watch the Australian national team playing against Japan, and his new club facing Sydney

United and St George.

"Australia didn't play well in the first match against Japan, the team lacked discipline and were outplayed by a much better organised side. But in the second game, the Australians showed more composure and were more aggressive and determined than the Japanese", said Pachame to ABSW.

About the other two games, the former Argentine star said that "Sydney United was a very strong and physical side, but its players lacked skills".

However Pachame was well impressed by Peter Katholos' St George side.

"They played a very good match. It was our best opposition in Australia. They played a great game, specially the second half, showing a lot of talent and skills and a good brand of attacking football", added Pachame.

Before his return to Japan, Pachame left a message for the Australian younger generation of football players: "You must



Carlos Pachame: Illustrious career in Argentina.

love the game, You must want what you do.

It is not that you do what you want. It is a big difference. If you want and

love what you do, in any aspect of your life, you can succeed and later, when you retire from the game, the same principle will apply to

whatever you do in the future".

Pedro Troglio one of the Argentine stars of Avispa Fukuoka began his career with Argentine club River Plate, and later played for Italian clubs Verona and Ascoli, before he signed with the Japanese club last year. He represented Argentina in the 1990 World Cup.

He believes that if young players want to succeed in football they have to devote their time to the game through sacrifice, determination and love for the sport, while Hugo Maradona, Diego's younger brother, said that young kids who want to make it in football should always follow their coaches advice.

For Dunga, the captain of the Brazilian 1994 World Cup winning side and now playing for J-League club Jubilo Iwata, young football players should put all the strength of their heart in it. "You have to put your heart in it, and love the game if you want to succeed" said the Brazilian star.

MARADONA IN CONFLICT

Diego Maradona is in conflict with his club, Boca Juniors. The former Argentine captain apparently insulted Boca's president in public causing a strong reaction among other club officials.

Unless there is an apology from Maradona, the player could be suspended indefinitely, and sidelined for the rest of the season.

Maradona has so far played in only one match during the Summer season, against Independiente and missed all other matches. River Plate beat Boca twice, both by the same score, 1-0.

In the first game, played at Mendoza's Malvinas Argentinas stadium, defender Rivarola scored the winner. River won again with a goal from a free kick scored by "South American Player of the Year", Uruguayan star Enzo Francescoli.

Maradona, also criticised River Plate's coach, former fellow player in the 1979 Argentine Youth World Cup winning team, Ramon Diaz, calling him "donkey" because, according to him, "from the Argentine footballers who played in Europe, Diaz was the worst of them all, and the one who didn't learn anything".

Independiente after consecutive wins over Racing Club and Boca Juniors won Mar del Plata's "Gold Cup". For Uruguayan coach, Gregorio Perez it was the first victory at the helm of the Argentine 'Red Devils'.

It was also the return to the top team of midfielder Daniel Oscar Garnero who was sidelined by the previous Independiente coach, Miguel Angel Lopez, for almost six months.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

TANDIL - GROUP A

Brazil 4 (Juninho 41, Savio 79 pen, 88, and Jamelli 90) Peru 1 (Ferrari 25)
Uruguay 2 (Magallanes 62 Abeijon 66) Bolivia 0.
Brazil 3 (Roberto Carlos 19th, Souza 43rd and 73rd) Paraguay 1 (Virgilio Ferreira 35th).
Paraguay 4 (Villalba 2, 16, Ferreira 24, Esteche 40)
Peru 2 (Saenz 3, Ramirez 87)
Brazil 4 (Cao 8, 39, 51, 85)
Bolivia 1 (Coimbra 25)
Uruguay 4 (Correa 24, Lemos 80, Dos Santos 83, Adinolfi 88) Peru 2 (Guadalupe 54, Espinoza 76).

MAR DEL PLATA - GROUP B

Venezuela 1 (Jesus Valiente 89) Colombia 0.
Argentina 6 (Marcelo Delgado 14, 41, 65, Hugo Morales 26, Ariel Ortega 50, Hernan Crespo 60m)
Ecuador 0.
Ecuador 3 (Agustin Delgado 22, Hurtado 44, Escobar 89) Colombia 3 (Dinas 12, Mackenzie 46 and 73 pen).
Argentina 2 (Marcelo Delgado 27 and 40) Chile 1 (Acuna 75). (halftime 2-1).
Chile 4 (Salas 7, 64, 77, Galdames penalty 21)
Ecuador 0
Argentina 3 (Marcelo Gallardo 62, Claudio Lopez 69, Marcelo Delgado 87) Venezuela 0
Venezuela 5 (Hernandez 37, Castellin 41, 65, Moran 78, 89) Ecuador 2 (Escobar 15, Yanez 68)
Chile 3 (Rojas 10, Salas 50, Avila 78) Colombia 3 (Gonzalez 23, Juan Angel 47, Mackenzie 63)

GROUP A

Brazil	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Bolivia	2	0	0	2	1	6	0
Peru	3	0	0	3	5	12	0

GROUP B

Argentina	3	3	0	0	11	1	9
Venezuela	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Chile	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
Colombia	3	0	2	1	6	7	2
Ecuador	4	0	1	3	5	18	1



Diego Lucero in his study surrounded by his trophies.

COVERED EVERY WORLD CUP

One of the most fascinating and captivating of journalists, Luis Scutto, died recently at his home in La Plata, Argentina, aged 94.

Born in Uruguay he was known as Diego Lucero to readers, radio listeners, fellow writers and followers of the World Game.

Typically he was getting ready to cover yet another tournament when his body gave out.

A versatile personality, Lucero was a player with Nacional of Montevideo and the Uruguayan team, but a knee injury forced him out of the game at an early age. He devoted himself to sports journalism, in which he was already interested.

He set foot upon a fantastic career in which he captivated his readers with his witty and popular style.

Founder of broadcasting stations and journals, writer, sculptor and painter, alluring lecturer, war correspondent, Lucero's life was one great adventure.

He was the only man who attended and covered all 15 World Cups, for which he received FIFA's award.

He was a resident of Argentina for the last 52 years, where he carried out a large part of his work. He was the kind of man who seemed to be immortal.



News FROM AROUND THE GL BE

ENGLAND TO PLAY CHINA

The England team will play games in Beijing and Hong Kong in late May before the start of the European Championships, the Liberation Daily reported.

The team will leave England on May 20 and play against China in Beijing on May 23 and against a Hong Kong team on May 26.

It will return home on May 28 and will play the first game of the Euro '96 against Switzerland at Wembley on June 8, the newspaper added.

LEEDS THROUGH TO FINAL

Ghanaian Tony Yeboah's 17th goal of the season last Sunday helped Leeds to its first Wembley final for 23 years.

He scored the second goal with an acrobatic bicycle kick in the 3-0 League Cup semi-final second leg win over first division Birmingham.

Leeds, 5-1 winner on aggregate, will play Aston Villa in the final on March 24.

Yeboah's strike came just two minutes after South African Phil Masinga, drafted in for only his fifth start of the season, had slid in the first from close range. Any hopes Birmingham fostered of retrieving the tie died a few minutes later when Steve Claridge drove his penalty against a post.

Brian Deane headed in a cross four minutes from the end to complete Birmingham's misery and ensure Leeds its first Wembley final since the 1973 FA Cup defeat by Sunderland.

TAYLOR DEFENDS ACTIONS

Former England manager Graham Taylor, pilloried by fans and the media for substituting Gary Lineker during the 1992 European Championship finals, said he should have taken him off in the previous match against France.

Lineker was substituted 27 minutes before the end of the defeat by Sweden and he subsequently retired from the international game without the 49th goal needed



Steve Bruce: Headed his first goal of the season for Manchester United.

to equal Bobby Charlton's England record.

Taylor was swiftly caricatured in the media as a turnip and, most damaging of all, accused of belittling the nation's favourite soccer son in an act of spite.

Taylor, now back as general manager of first division Watford after unhappy spells with Aston Villa and Wolverhampton, said in an interview in London's The Mail On Sunday: "From that moment, I had affected the nation's hero so I was the villain."

"People who have been under severe strain will understand. Towards the end when I could see that we weren't going to qualify for the World Cup finals I was getting the sweats."

"It was only after I resigned six days after our final qualifying match against San Marino that I realised how much pressure I had been under."

"But I will not be

criticised for taking a spiteful decision. I was never driven by envy of his reputation, or any other motive."

Taylor said that during the final days of his ill-fated 17-month tenure of the England manager's chair he would wake up every morning feeling as if he "had gone 10 rounds with Frank Bruno".

"The Bosman case has abolished frontiers in the European Union. It opens new horizons. It would be a pity not to exploit the opportunities it gives us," Verschueren was quoted as saying in La Derniere Heure newspaper.

The European Court of Justice ruled in December, in a case involving Belgian

CUP GAMES GO TRUE TO FORM

First Division side Montpellier struggled to move past Third Division Toulon last Saturday in a French Cup third round match.

The teams were tied 1-1 after extra time but Montpellier won the penalty shoot-out 4-1 to reach the quarter-finals.

Toulon, which had knocked out first division Bordeaux in the previous round, opened the scoring before its home fans after 11 minutes thanks to Jean-Noel Cabezas. But Montpellier equalised four minutes later through Vincent Petit.

In the other match involving a first division club, Strasbourg beat second division Niort 1-0 with Gerald Baticle scoring the winner in the 20th minute.

Gueugnon beat St Etienne 1-0 in a clash between two teams fighting to avoid relegation. Young Yannick Chandoux scored the winner after 61 minutes.

The league match between Metz v Lyon, was postponed because of bad weather.

BELGIUM AND DUTCH JOINT COMP?

Leading clubs from the Netherlands and Belgium are discussing plans to set up a joint first division championship, Belgian newspapers said last weekend.

Both countries would provide their eight best teams for the league but it was unclear which clubs would qualify or what criteria would be used to choose them.

Newspapers said that such a league, proposed by Anderlecht manager Michel Verschueren, would improve the level of play and boost interest in soccer.

"The Bosman case has abolished frontiers in the European Union. It opens new horizons. It would be a pity not to exploit the opportunities it gives us," Verschueren was quoted as saying in La Derniere Heure newspaper.

footballer Jean-Marc Bosman, that European clubs could not limit the number of players from other EU countries on their teams.

The Belgian soccer union was not immediately available for comment on Verschueren's proposal.

Newspapers said the chairmen of the leading Dutch clubs had discussed Verschueren's idea during a meeting in Amersfoort, Netherlands, last Thursday.

HELmut SCHOEN PASSES AWAY

Helmut Schoen, who coached Germany to the 1974 World Cup title, has died after a long illness. It was announced last Thursday.

The 80-year-old Schoen, who managed the German team from 1964 to 1978, also won the European Championship in 1972.

Schoen's international record speaks for itself — 87 victories, 31 draws and just 21 defeats.

And Schoen was no slouch on the field and won German titles with Dresden — the league in 1943 and 1944, and the cup in 1940 and 1941. He also scored 17 goals in just 16 appearances for the German national side between 1937 and 1941.

However his coaching career ended on a low note when Germany was beaten 3-2 by Austria in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina.

After his retirement,

Schoen kept away from the world of football and, although invited, did not go to watch Germany play Argentina in the 1986 World Cup final.

RANGERS REMAIN ON COURSE

Manchester United scored an overwhelming 6-0 victory at bottom-placed Bolton last Sunday to cut Newcastle's lead in the English Premier League standings to just four points.

The victory restored Rangers' three-point lead over Celtic, 4-0 winner over Partick.

On a tension-packed afternoon in Aberdeen, referee Hugh Dallas produced the yellow card nine times — once for dissent by Gascoigne, collecting his 10th domestic booking of the season and the third in his last four games.

But the England midfielder's penalty clinched victory as Rangers missed a series of other chances before withstanding a late Aberdeen rally.

The pace of Brian Laudrup took him clear of Brian Irvine and Brian Grant but Irvine pulled down the Dane from behind.

Before half-time Laudrup missed a glorious chance to make it 2-0 after a long ball put him clear but his attempted lob was blocked.

Rangers were also thwarted early in the second half when Gascoigne seemed to be bursting through but was pulled down. The resulting free kick was wasted. With nine games left

Rangers are still out in front, with Celtic due at Ibrox on March 17 in what should be the championship decider.

Aberdeen is in third place on 40 points, a massive 22 behind Celtic.

UNITED GETTING CLOSER

Manchester United scored an overwhelming 6-0 victory at bottom-placed Bolton last Sunday to cut Newcastle's lead in the English Premier League standings to just four points.

The Reds, who have won eight games in a row, go to Newcastle in eight days time and have the chance to cut that lead to just one point, even though the Magpies, who drew 3-3 with Manchester City Saturday, will have a game in hand.

Before a full house of 21,381 at Bolton's Burden Park, Manchester United raced into a 2-0 lead inside the first 14 minutes.

After Ryan Giggs' well-struck volley had hit the crossbar, David Beckham followed up to head home after five minutes and centre-back Steve Bruce headed his first of the season for the second.

Andy Cole netted his 10th of the season in the 70th and substitute Paul Scholes took his tally for the term to 13 with strikes in the 76th and 79th. Nicky Butt added the sixth in the final minute.



Tony Yeboah: Scored second Leed's goal with spectacular shot.

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AND THE WINNER IS...

Let's start off by making someone's day for a change. Sasa Boric of Noble Park, Victoria take a bow.

Sasa answered our three questions correctly in the "Sparky" competition and has won the Limited Edition Mark Hughes T-shirt donated by our good friend Mark at Euro-Kit.

A new competition begins next week so stay tuned and "well done" Sasa.

The answers by the way are: 1/ Sparky transferred to Barcelona 2/ They loaned him to Bayern Munich the following season and 3/ He now plays for Chelsea.

Obviously we made this competition TOO easy so the next one may be a bit harder.

Mickey Lyons did make a comeback for Everton last week! The fact that it was at Wentworth Park for the Everton Supporters Club makes no difference.

Show the lad a patch of grass, a few white lines and a ball and that glint in the eye returns.

I can report that he "scrubbed up well"

considering the tiring schedule he places himself under and came close to scoring the first goal but headed just over.

Well done to all the lads who took part on what turned out to be a scorching day, made me feel knackered just watching! A special mention to Mick Hanratty for his efforts in organising the event and all those who gave of their time in getting it off the ground.

(Perhaps we'll have the results of the qualifiers and finals next week?)

I was stunned to read John Viskovich condemning critics of his column 'Croatian Corner' and feel I must take him to task on some of his points firstly: "...it's going to talk about Croatian soccer so why any Anglo-Saxon person reads it is quite beyond me."

Typical head in the sand approach John. This is why there is such a problem relating to the game in this country because people with outdated views on the sport — such as yours — have lingered on long past their sell-by date.

I prefer the terraces to anywhere else in a ground and listen intently to what is being said around me and the vast majority has been racist and totally unprintable here.

The reason an Anglo-Saxon, Greek, German or

Game is bigger than all of us

any nationality would read it is because they love the game and are more interested in reading and learning about it than you obviously are!

Next quote: "...we have to give respect to the British for finding this great country of ours but we also have to respect the Greeks, Italians and Croatians for giving us soccer etc."

So the oldest game in the world does not play host to the oldest international fixture or hold the oldest domestic cup competition then?

Funnily enough I thought it was the UK that gave the world "football" as we know it which was then adopted by Greece, Italy and Croatia etc? Am I wrong?

Surely it is the great Juventus of Italy that adopted the black and white stripes of Notts County in the UK as their own?

Don't get me wrong, but get the chip off your shoulder mate. Football is a game for all and from all walks of life. Don't make religion, race or colour an issue. You say "our great country" but from the tone of your outpouring you are Croatian first and Australian second.

As I am not yet a citizen of this country, I feel safe in the fact that I have attended many games here just for the game's sake and not out of the fact that a "Croatian side" is playing one from Italy.

I've been to Marconi, United, Olympic amongst others and witnessed and copped the abuse of those around me. I've been to



Gianluca Vialli: Showing the Juventus strip which is a copy of Notts County's.

internationals where my kids have started singing the national anthem and those around them look at us like we've arrived from another planet! Why?

With the debate about "de-ethnicising" the game once more appearing within the letters page let's stop the crap and make one thing plain here, once and for all: Marconi are a club of Italian origin, UTS Olympic are a club of Greek origin and Sydney United are a club of Croatian origin, so what?

There is no need for any of this to change, even to make progress and step forward in the right direction.

Football is a business and as such must be treated on this basis. Although one can never "make" the supporters change their mind on anything, re-education has to be seen as phase one of broadening a

"inner community" to entire community, as with Rugby League, Aussie Rules etc.

If the game is to grow it has to be structured into a professional sport and that isn't going to happen on the usual few thousand who attend matches.

In order to enlarge the gate receipts, clubs must ensure that the game is bigger than any individual or section of the community.

It is a case whereby the local residents of any area must see the local soccer match as a darned sight better alternative to re-hashed films and relic comedies.

This is not going to happen so long as attitudes such as yours are displayed. We all live here and football is the game of the masses so why knock someone for reading a column written by yourself

because he has the audacity to question your penmanship and isn't form Croatian stock?

If that is not a racist remark I am at a loss to explain what it's called. Because someone takes an interest in teams from another country, don't dismiss them as being unworthy.

Just to illustrate the point, did you know?

Maldives formed their league in 1983 and the national stadium is National Stadium, Male?

Penarol have won the South American title 42 times?

Ferencvaros have won the Hungarian league 25 times and been runners-up on a further 29 occasions?

Perhaps not, but a small amount of knowledge about the game outside of your specialist subject might not be a bad thing. Having said this, I have no wish to denigrate your beliefs or wound your pride.

We are all proud of our origins but the game was there before us, will remain long after we've shuffled off our mortal coils and what you or I think will not make the slightest difference.

The fact is, the game is bigger than all of us and will continue to be so why not just enjoy the world's most popular sport for what it is, a release from the everyday humdrum way of life and a game that arouses the passions within its followers like no other the world has ever known.

Extend the hand of football friendship to another supporter, not just you but everyone, and you may find it's not as painful as you think.

Enjoy the game but let everyone keep their origins and respect them for it but don't let it spoil the growth of "our game".

I wish you well for the future John, be lucky.

(Hand) Last Thursday I was at St. George Stadium watching the Saints take on Jubilo Iwata from the Japan J-League. Unfortunately 'Toto' was unavailable but Dunga played.

It was an exciting experience all round with the visitors running out winners. Brazil's 1994 World Cup final winning captain scored both goals.

RATINGS OF ENGLISH GROUNDS

TEAM GROUND ADDRESS	NEWCASTLE UTD
St James Park	Sixfields Stadium
Newcastle upon Tyne	Abington Avenue
NE1 4ST	Northampton NN14PS
36,649	7,650
68,386 (1930)	24,523 (at County Ground 1966)
1892	1994
Newcastle Central	Northampton Castle
Fantastic! A spacious new sporting complex the ground stands tall and is a credit to Geordie football.	The best ground in the third division. Modern all seater complex that shows Justice Taylor may have done a favour to all the fans.
Sir John Hall is to be congratulated.	3.5
4	3.5
ACCESSIBILITY RATING /5	8.5
OVERALL GROUND RATING /10	8

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Sir John Hall is to be congratulated.	3.5
4	3.5
ACCESSIBILITY RATING /5	8.5
OVERALL GROUND RATING /10	8

Taylor and John renew partnership

Former England manager Graham Taylor and pop star Elton John were reunited last Thursday at Watford.

Nearly 20 years after John appointed him as manager, Taylor has been hired as the struggling first division club's new general manager.

Taylor and John, the club's most famous fan and former owner, took Watford to unprecedented success in the late 1970s and 1980s.

During their 10-year partnership from 1977 to 1987, the club was promoted from the old fourth division to the first, finished runner-up to champions Liverpool, reached the FA Cup final and played a season in Europe.

Taylor left Watford in 1987 and John sold his controlling interest in the club three years later.

John, who stayed on as honorary life president, was instrumental in bringing Taylor back to try to revive the club's fortunes. Watford has just five wins in 28 league games this season and lies in last place of the first division.

The millionaire rock star said he is ready to play a more active role with the club now that Taylor is back. "I do intend to become much more involved again and that's why I am so delighted that Graham has come back," John said. "I've been away from the club for a while myself and when I've looked at it from a distance it has broken my heart."

"The heart and the soul seemed to go out of it and



Graham Taylor: Moves Into Watford for second time.

that hurt me very much. I spoke to Graham when it looked possible he could return and so you could say I was involved in him coming

back. I've missed the old cameraderie and the feeling of building something together."

Taylor had a rocky tenure



as manager of England. Vilified by the tabloids and branded a "turnip," Taylor resigned after England failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

"That insult has got to end now," John said. "I hope people will be above that sort of thing and let him get on with this job."

Taylor, who was dismissed last November as manager of Wolverhampton, said, "I always intended to come back into the game, but my original plan was to wait until after the end of the season. I am only coming back now because it is Watford."

Taylor recreated another link with his Watford past by recruiting the club's former top scorer and England striker Luther Blissett as the first-team coach.

Blissett will handle most of the day-to-day responsibilities of running the team following the departure of Glenn Roeder.

"We have 18 games left in which to avoid relegation and I would say the chances are about 50-50," Taylor said. "If it happens that we go down then we will just have to deal with it."

Taylor had a rocky tenure

Brighton's future in the balance



Jimmy Case: His club Brighton is \$12million in debt.

Brighton's future as a Football League club was back in the balance last Thursday when East Sussex County Council recommended rejection of its plans for a new \$A66.06 million stadium.

The second division struggler has sold its Goldstone Ground home for \$A15.28 million and want to move to a new site two miles away at Toads Hole Valley.

New owner Chartwell has said it will let Jimmy Case's side stay at the Goldstone for another season if it gets permission to turn future use of the 94-year-old ground from warehouses into a giant food hall.

However, that plan also got the thumbs down, leaving Brighton - \$A12.39 million in debt - once again battling for survival.

A final decision on both applications now rests with Hove Council - and Football League officials are closely monitoring developments that threaten to leave Brighton in a "Catch 22" situation. The club has put into place contingency plans to ground-share with Portsmouth next season, should Chartwell insist on vacant possession this summer.

But League spokesman Chris Hull reiterated, "We have told Brighton we will not accept ground-sharing, unless accompanying the plan are details of a new stadium within the Brighton conurbation."

Brighton chief executive David Bellotti is ready to go to appeal should Hove Council rubber-stamp the East Sussex rejection recommendation, which is backed by an objection from the Government's Highways Agency.

The concern is that the Seagulls' plans for a 30,000 all-seater stadium and sports centre include a commercial development to fund the project.

Premier League Team

BOLTON WANDERERS

BY STUART JONES

Keith Branagan (G) — Born 1966 in Fulham. Started at Cambridge where he played 110 times before a move to Millwall. He was loaned out three times — to Brentford, Gillingham and Fulham. He has made over 100 first team league appearances for Bolton.

Aidan Davison (G) — Born Sedgefield in 1968. Left Billingham Sym for Notts County where he played one league match. He went on loan to Leyton Orient before moving to Bury where he was loaned out to Chester City and Blackpool.

He did not make any league appearances for any of these four clubs. He moved to Millwall where he played more regularly before a move to Bolton. He has played 35 times for the Trotters in the League.

Jimmy Phillips (D) — Born Bolton in 1966. Apprentice at Bolton and played 108 games scoring two goals before moving to Rangers in Scotland. He then played at Oxford and Middlesbrough before moving back to Brunton Park, he has now appeared over 200 times in total in league football for the club.

Gudni Bergsson (D) — Born Iceland in 1965. Bergsson moved from Valur to Tottenham Hotspur where he played 71 times scoring two goals. He moved to Bolton last season. An Icelandic international, he recently scored for Bolton against his old club — Spurs!

Alan Stubbs (D) — Born Kirkby in 1971. Was a trainee at Bolton and one of the highest rated players in the team. Was transfer listed earlier in the campaign when the likes of Liverpool, Manchester United, Blackburn and Arsenal were after him. Stubbs has signed a new three year contract with Bolton quite recently.

Chris Fairclough (D) — Born Nottingham in 1964. Played at Nottingham Forest before a move to Spurs. Left Spurs for Leeds where he won a championship medal. Left Leeds in the summer for Bolton.

Andy Todd (D) — Born Derby in 1974. Son of Manager Colin Todd, was a trainee at Middlesbrough where his father was coach. Had a loan spell at Swindon before joining the Trotters.

S. McAnespie (D) — Born in Scotland. Left Raith Rovers this season to join up with Bolton and help shore up their defensive frailties.

Scott Green (M) — Born Walsall in 1970. Was a trainee at Derby but did not make any first team league appearances for the club before moving to Bolton. Until the beginning of this season had played 177 times for Bolton in the league.

Alan Thompson (M) — Born Newcastle in 1973. Was a trainee in the North East but left Newcastle and joined Bolton. A very fierce shot on him!

Sasa Curcic (M) — Born in the former Yugoslavia. Curcic left Partizan Belgrade to join Bolton and has shown many skills on English soil. Probably their best player.

Richard Sneekes (M) — Born Amsterdam in 1968. Left Fortuna Sittard for Bolton. Last season he was hit by injury.

Scott Sellars (M) — Born Sheffield in 1965. Apprentice at Leeds before moving to Blackburn and playing a major part in their revival moved back to Leeds for just seven games before moving to Newcastle and being part of their renaissance. Injury saw him lose his first team place and this season he moved to Bolton.

David Lee (M) — Born Whitefield in 1967. Lee started his league career at Bury before moving to Southampton. He then moved to Bolton and has played a major role in some of the teams famous cup upsets especially against Liverpool in 1993.

Fabian Defreitas (F) — Born 1972 in Paramaribo, Holland. Left Volendam for Bolton and scored goals in the play off final after coming off the bench. Future looks bright for this young star.

Nathan Blake (F) — Born Cardiff in 1972. He trialled at Chelsea before becoming a star at Cardiff was picked up by Sheffield United. This season he has moved to Bolton. Wales international.

Mixu Paatela (F) — Born Helsinki in 1967. He left Valkaekosken Haka and joined Dundee United in Scotland before moving to Aberdeen. He played over 200 league games in Scotland before moving to Bolton. Finland international.

John McGinlay — Born 1964 in Inverness. Moved from Elgin City to Shrewsbury. Also played for Bury and Millwall before moving to Bolton where he's leader of the pack really. At the start of the season he'd played 110 times for the club scoring 57 goals in the league. Scotland international.

Colin Todd was made co manager with Roy McFarland when Bruce Rioch left for Arsenal in the summer. McFarland has since been sacked and Ian Porterfield has become team coach. As a coach to Rioch, Todd has been very successful as a manager (eg Middlesbrough) success has been less repeated. Former international player for England.



JOHN McGINLAY



ALAN STUBBS

'6 FROM 38 POOLS'

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 553

SAT. 2ND MARCH, 1996

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION	COVENTRY	WEST HAM	1
	LEEDS	BOLTON	2
	MAN. CITY	BLACKBURN	3
	MIDDLESBRO	EVERTON	4
	QPR	ARSENAL	5
	SHEFFIELD WED.	NOTTINGHAM F.	6
	TOTTENHAM	SOUTHAMPTON	7
	WIMBLEDON	CHELSEA	8
	BIRMINGHAM	SHEFF. UTD	9
	DERBY	HUDDERSFIELD	10
ENGLISH DIVISION 1	LUTON	CRYSTAL P.	11
	PORTSMOUTH	CHARLTON	12
	READING	WATFORD	13
	SOUTHEND	NORWICH	14
	STOKE	BARNESLEY	15
	WEST BROM.	PORT VALE	16
	BOURNEMOUTH	OXFORD UTD	17
	BRADFORD C.	YORK	18
	BRIGHTON	BRENTFORD	19
	BRISTOL R.	SHREWSBURY	20
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BURNLEY	BLACKPOOL	21
	CARLISLE	STOCKPORT	22
	Notts County	HULL	23
	PETERBORO	CHESTERFIELD	24
	SWANSEA	BRISTOL C.	25
	WALSALL	ROTHERHAM	26
	WREXHAM	CREWE	27
	WYCOMBE	SWINDON	28
	BURY	SCUNTHORPE	29
	CHESTER	CARDIFF	30
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	DONCASTER	DARLINGTON	31
	FULHAM	LINCOLN	32
	HEREFORD	NORTHAMPTON	33
	LEYTON O.	COLCHESTER	34
	MANSFIELD	BARNET	35
	PLYMOUTH	GILLINGHAM	36
	PRESTON	ROCHDALE	37
	SCARBORO	HARTLEPOOL	38
	RESERVE MATCHES		
	TORQUAY	EXETER	39
SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV.	WIGAN A.	CAMBRIDGE U.	40
	ABERDEEN	KILMARNOCK	41
	CELTIC	HEARTS	42
	MOTHERWELL	FALKIRK	43
	PARTICK	RAITH	44
	AIRDRIE	DUNDEE U.	45
	CLYDEBANK	ST JOHNSTONE	46
	DUNDEE	DUMBARTON	47
	DUNFERMLINE	G'N'C MORTON	48
	ST MIRRREN	HAMILTON	49
SCOTTISH DIVISION 1	AYR	BERWICK	50
	FORFAR	STENH'MUIR	51
	Q. OF SOUTH	CLYDE	52
	STIRLING A.	EAST FIFE	53
	STRANRAER	MONTROSE	54
	* ALBION R.	ARBROATH	55

* SCOTTISH DIVISION 3

SCORE DRAWS ARE CALCULATED FROM GAME 38 BACKWARD

**GET YOUR
POOLS IN**
Don't forget
Pools Quick Pick

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 552
SAT. 24TH FEBRUARY, 1996

ENGLISH PREMIER DIV.	BLACKBURN	LIVERPOOL	1	2-3
BOLTON	MAN. UTD	2	0-6	
COVENTRY	MIDDLESBRO	3	0-0	
EVERTON	NOTTINGHAM F.	4	3-0	
TOTTENHAM	SHEFFIELD WED.	5	1-0	
DERBY	PORTSMOUTH	6	3-2	
HUDDERSFIELD	CRYSTAL P.	7	3-0	
OLDHAM	CHARLTON	8	1-1	
PORT VALE	GRIMSBY	9	PP	
READING	LEICESTER	10	1-1	
SHEFFIELD UTD	BARNESLEY	11	1-0	
SUNDERLAND	LUTON	12	1-0	
TRANMERE	STOKE	13	0-0	
WATFORD	IPSWICH	14	2-3	
WOLVES	SOUTHEND	15	2-0	
BLACKPOOL	BRIGHTON	16	2-1	
BRISTOL C.	BRADFORD C.	17	2-1	
CARLISLE	OXFORD UTD	18	1-2	
CREWE	BOURNEMOUTH	19	2-0	
HULL	BURNLEY	20	3-0	
Notts County	SHREWSBURY	21	1-1	
ROTHERHAM	CHESTERFIELD	22	0-1	
SWINDON	BRISTOL R.	23	2-1	
WALSALL	BRENTFORD	24	0-1	
WREXHAM	PETERBORO	25	1-0	
WYCOMBE	STOCKPORT	26	4-1	
YORK	SWANSEA	27	0-0	
CAMBRIDGE U.	BURY	28	2-4	
CARDIFF	GILLINGHAM	29	2-0	
COLCHESTER	DARLINGTON	30	1-1	
FULHAM	EXETER	31	2-1	
HARTLEPOOL	LEYTON O.	32	4-1	
HEREFORD	SCARBORO	33	0-0	
LINCOLN	CHESTER	34	0-0	
MANSFIELD	ROCHDALE	35	PP	
NORTHAMPTON	DONCASTER	36	3-3	
PLYMOUTH	BARNET	37	1-1	
SCUNTHORPE	PRESTON	38	1-2	

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 0055 33111 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney
0055 29043; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07)
11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm.
Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 24/2/96 WEEK 552

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURED	NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURED
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6	1
7	1
8	1
9	1
10	1
11	1
12	1
13	1
14	1
15	1
16	1
17	1
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44	1
45	1
46	1
47	1
48	1
49	1
50	1
51	1
52	1
53	1
54	1
55	1
56	1
57	1
58	1
59	1
60	1

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF

WEEK 552 SAT. FEBRUARY 24, 1996

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):
8, 10, 21, 30, 36, 37.
Supplementary Number 35.

SOCCER POOLS FORM GUIDE

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	ENGLISH DIVISION THREE
P W D L F A Pts	Gillingham 31 17 9 5 39 13 60
Newcastle 27 19 4 4 52 25 61	Preston 30 15 12 3 58 26 57
Manchester Utd 28 17 6 5 55 29 57	Chester 30 13 9 8 49 36 48
Liverpool 27 15 7 5 53 24 52	Darlington 31 12 12 7 36 29 48
Aston Villa 26 13 7 6 37 21 46	Plymouth 32 12 11 9 48 37 47
Tottenham 27 12 9 6 34 25 45	Wigan 31 13 8 10 42 39 47
Arsenal 27 12 8 7 35 25 44	Doncaster 31 13 8 10 38 40 47
Everton 28 12 7 9 42 30 43	Bury 30 12 10 8 42 36 46
Chelsea 28 11 9 8 34 30 42	Cochester 31 10 13 8 41 39 43
Blackburn 27 12 5 10 42 31 41	Northampton 31 11 10 10 35 32 43
Nottingham Forest 27 10 10 7 35 38 40	Barnet 32 9 14 9 36 35 41
West Ham 28 11 5 12 31 37 38	Exeter 31 8 14 9 32 35 38
Leeds 25 10 5 10 31 37 35	Leyton Orient 31 10 7 14 33 43 37
Middlesbrough 28 9 7 12 28 37 34	Scunthorpe 29 9 11 41 39 36 38
Sheffield Wed 27 7 8 12 36 43 29	Rochdale 30 9 12 9 37 36 37
Southampton 26 5 10 11 27 39 35	Hereford 28 8 12 8 38 33 36
Wimbledon 27 6 7 14 39 55 25	Cambridge Utd 30 9 8 13 42 50 35
Coventry 27 5 10 12 33 49 25	Hartlepool 30 8 8 11 33 40 35
Manchester City 27 6 7 14 39 55 25	Scarborough 32 7 14 11 31 40 35
QPR 27 6 3 18 22 41 21	Cardiff 31 9 8 14 30 39 35
Bolton 28 4 4 20 28 58 16	Mansfield 30 6 5 9 37 49 33
ENGLISH DIVISION ONE	
Derby 32 16 11 5 52 35 59	Fulham 30 6 14 10 36 42 32
Charlton 31 13 13 45 33 52	Lincoln 30 7 11 12 2

Ince commits to Inter

English soccer star Paul Ince, whose rocky start nearly led him to leave Italy, will stay with Inter Milan at least through next season, is reported as saying.

The 28-year-old Ince told Italian state television last week, he wanted to help Inter in next year's UEFA Cup, which the team is headed for at its current pace. A \$A12.36 million transfer from Manchester United last summer, Ince struggled adapting to Serie A.

Several Premier League clubs expressed interest in taking him back to England.

His turnaround has been instrumental to Inter's climb in the standings under English coach Roy Hodgson.

Ince said he hopes to be named in England's team for the European Championships in June. The midfielder returned to the England side last month after a one-year absence.

Coventry want Aberdeen star

Struggling English premier league team Coventry revealed last week it was keen to land transfer-listed Aberdeen star Eoin Jess as it stepped up its bid to avoid the drop.

The highly-rated Scotland international is known to be keen to pursue his career in England after declining to sign a new contract at the Scottish Premier division club.

He has been linked with a string of top English clubs and Aberdeen is anxious to cash in on its star asset before possibly losing him for nothing when his contract runs out in the summer.

Coventry manager Ron Atkinson has been in touch with Aberdeen boss Roy Aitken and wants to stage talks with the 25-year-old.

Jess, previously a striker, has revelled in a midfield role with Aberdeen this season and is a strong candidate for Craig Brown's Scotland squad for the European Championship finals in June.



Eoin Jess: Revelling in midfield role.

Top referee felt like robot

Scottish referee Jim McGilvray has resigned 16 days after giving England midfielder Paul Gascoigne a caution for celebrating a goal.

The experienced Edinburgh official submitted his resignation to the Scottish Football Association last Monday, saying he felt like a "robot" and that the much-publicised Gascoigne incident was "the last straw".

"That was the day I decided to pack it in," said the 47-year-old McGilvray, who had been a senior official in Scotland for 11 years.

"My stomach turned but under the system I had to yellow card Gazza. It was him or me."

"We are being programmed like robots with a list of instructions. I just can't carry on like this. I love my football but it is time to get out."

In the controversial match between Glasgow Rangers and Partick Thistle on February 3, McGilvray also gave red cards to two Partick players.

Gascoigne scored both goals in Rangers' 2-1 victory.

Villa on their way to Wembley



Mark Draper: Outstanding performance in midfield denied Arsenal the ball.

Aston Villa scrambled through to the League Cup Final at Wembley last Wednesday winning on the away goal rule after holding Arsenal to a scoreless draw in the second leg match of their semi-final.

Aston Villa was repaid for its valiant fightback at Arsenal a week ago. Two Dwight Yorke goals after being 2-0 down in the first leg were almost added to by the Trinidadian international.

The 30,000 crowd rose to its feet two minutes

before half-time believing that he had scored his 20th goal of the season, after meeting Republic of Ireland captain Andy Townsend's perfectly flighted cross.

However, it flashed just past the post. Arsenal was rarely able to mount concerted pressure on Villa.

Townsend and Mark Draper were outstanding in midfield and Australian keeper Mark Bosnich only had a Ray Parlour effort to worry him.

Port Vale, Everton's

conquerors in the Cup, forced another Premiership club into an FA Cup replay after drawing 0-0 away in their fifth round tie at Leeds. Grimsby, victors over West Ham in the fourth round, held Chelsea 0-0 at home in their fifth round tie, although they had the best chances.

Former Chelsea striker Steve Livingstone had an effort cleared off the line. Chelsea keeper Kevin Hitchcock did well also to repel Craig Shakespeare late in the first half.

Game called off due to snow

The F.A. Cup fifth round tie between Nottingham Forest and Tottenham, abandoned after 15 minutes last week because of snow, has been re-set for Wednesday (tomorrow).

The match was called off with the score still at 0-0 soon after the kick-off as the windy, snowy conditions at Forest's City Ground deteriorated rapidly with a wind chill factor of -12 degrees.

Referee Gary Willard had already called for a change of ball from white to orange after 10 minutes while Tottenham's all-white strip made its players barely distinguishable in the driving snow.

It was the first time Spurs had had an F.A. Cup tie abandoned since 1907, while the last time Forest was involved in an abandoned F.A. Cup tie was in 1989 when its semi-final against Liverpool was stopped after six minutes because of the Hillsborough Disaster.

The eventual winner will host Aston Villa in the quarter-finals.

Molby takes over Swansea

Danish star Jan Molby left his beloved Liverpool last Thursday to become the fifth man to take charge of second division crisis club Swansea this season.

The 32-year-old Danish international, who made 292 appearances and scored 59 goals in 11 years with Liverpool, takes over as player-manager at the troubled club.

Molby, who has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract, replaces Jimmy Rimmer, who took over in a caretaker capacity for the second time this term when the club parted company with unknown Kevin Cullis.

Cullis, who followed Frank Burrows, Bobby Smith and Rimmer at the helm, lasted just seven days — and two defeats.

Chairman Doug Sharpe, now back in control of the club, claimed Molby's appointment would herald a period of stability at a club which has tasted victory just once in the last 15 games.

With only 14 matches to go, Molby, who began his career with hometown club Kolding in Denmark before moving to Dutch giant Ajax Amsterdam, may have bitten off more than he can chew in trying to prevent Swansea slipping into the bottom division.

"League tables don't lie. I'm not making any guarantees but I certainly have not come here to manage a third division team," he said.

"The chairman has brought me here mainly as a player, and I can certainly make a far bigger impact on the field than I can in the office."

Molby was a part of Liverpool's double team of 1986 and also won championship honours in 1990 and an FA Cup winners' medal in 1992.

Despite his bulky frame — and a short jail sentence after a driving offence — Molby, whose Danish accent soon transformed into passable Scouse, the accent of The Beatles, was a firm favourite with the Liverpool fans.



Jan Molby: 11 year career at Liverpool has ended.

Caledonian's ground unsafe

Third division club Caledonian Thistle was told by the Scottish Football Association last Wednesday to switch its home Cup quarter-final tie against Glasgow Rangers to another ground.

The Scottish F.A. said that Thistle's 5,500-capacity ground in Inverness did not adequately meet safety requirements for the match on March 9.

The club was formed in 1994 by the merger of Inverness Thistle and Inverness Caledonian.



ERICSSON CUP MATCHES THIS WEEK

ROUND 22



FRIDAY, MARCH 1

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
v
SOUTH MELBOURNE
Breakers Stadium - 7:30PM



SATURDAY, MARCH 2

MORWELL FALCONS
v
CANBERRA COSMOS
Morwell Falcons Park - 7:00PM



SATURDAY, MARCH 2

BRISBANE STRIKERS
v
UTS OLYMPIC
Suncorp Stadium - 7:00PM



SATURDAY, MARCH 2

SYDNEY UNITED
v
ADELAIDE CITY
Sydney United Sport Centre - 7:00PM



SUNDAY, MARCH 3

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
v
WOLLONGONG CITY
Melb. Croatian Spt Centre - 7:00PM



SUNDAY, MARCH 3

WEST ADELAIDE
v
MARCONI FAIRFIELD
Hindmarsh Stadium - 7:30PM



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